

Gemayel pushes for reconciliation meeting

BEIRUT (AP) — President Amin Gemayel Wednesday set 20 October as the date for Lebanon's national reconciliation conference even though the site for the meeting — the major obstacle to holding it — still has not been chosen.

Mr. Gemayel also declared that a preliminary committee should begin working Thursday to set an agenda for the meeting that is meant to put an end to the religious and political factionalism that have divided Lebanon for eight years.

The president's decision was announced by government radio in a broadcast that also noted, intensive discussions, were still underway on the question of the site.

For more than two weeks, since the reconciliation talks were called for in a ceasefire ending Lebanon's latest civil war, squabbling over that issue has delayed the start of the dialogue to find a new power sharing formula for the country.

Mr. Gemayel's push for the meeting to actually begin came after both left-wing and right-wing politicians warned that the hickering over the setting could imperil the 17-day-old truce. "Let them meet even if they have to do it on camel back," said Sheikh Abdel Amir Kabalan, a Shiite Muslim religious leader.

The president directed that invitations be sent to nine senior politicians to attend the reconciliation talks. Those taking part would include five Maronites, two Sunni Muslims, two Shiite Muslims, and one Druze.

The single Druze is Mr. Walid Junblatt. Fighting between his Progressive Socialist Party militia and the army of Gemayel's Christian Phalange Party began the civil war with the pullout of Israeli troops from Lebanon's central mountains on 4 September.

Hussein-Arafat talks likely to begin soon

By Abdulsalam Y Massarueh

Star Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Reports from the New York Times Beirut correspondent reveal the possibilities of resumption of the dialogue, which was abruptly terminated last April, between King Hussein and Palestinian Liberation Organisation chairman, Mr. Yasser Arafat. A joint Palestinian-Jordanian document is likely to come out and it is expected to be discussed in the planned Arab summit in Riyadh, the report said.

A US state department official in Washington said that an agreement is

likely to grant Jordan the mandate to enter into Middle East peace talks based on the Resgaa plan. It seems President Resgaa is rekindling interest in his peace plans in view of the forthcoming presidential elections.

According to the official, the present crisis in the PLO and Syrian intention to oust Mr. Arafat will apparently force the Palestinian leader to venture in the options of the Resgaa plan. The United States reportedly, through its consulate in east Jerusalem, is dealing coactively with the West Bank Palestinians and this process, according to the official, will assist Washington in dealing directly with the Palestinians under occupation and not through the middleman, namely the PLO.

Conservative party annual conference begins

Thatcher's style of government criticised

By Len Rockingham

Star London Correspondent

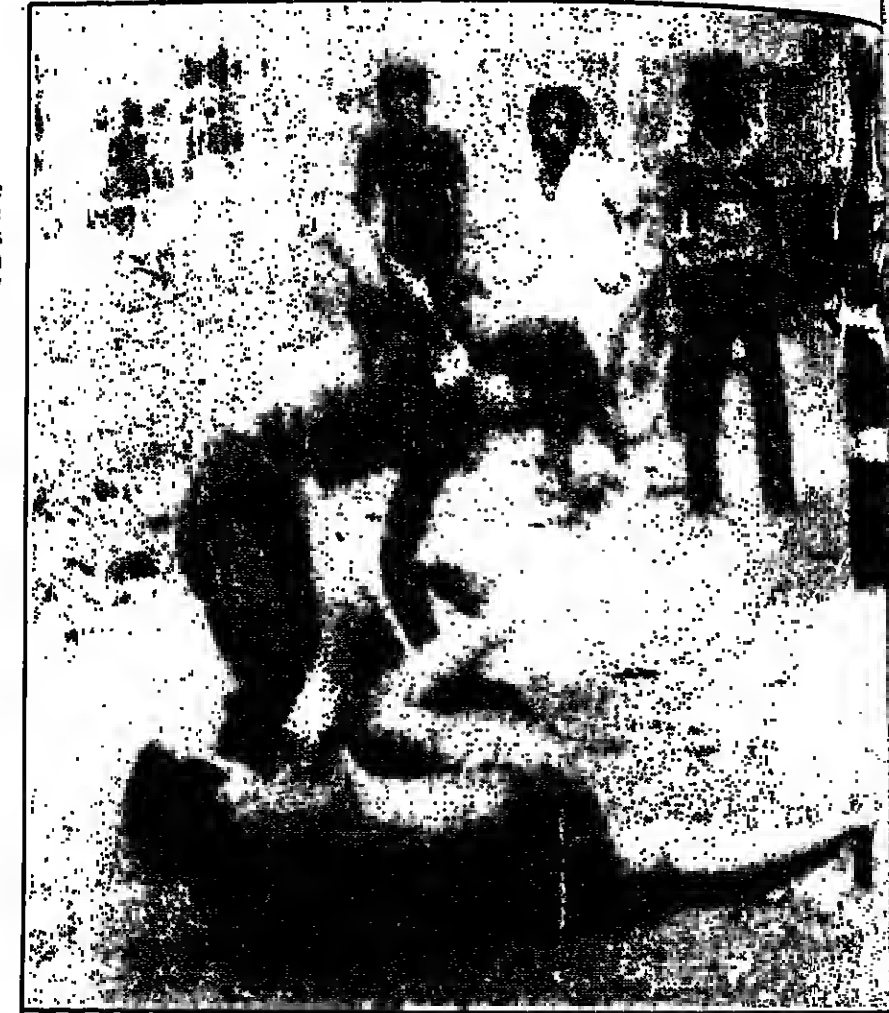
LONDON — A former British Prime Minister, Sir Harold Wilson, said that a week is a long time in politics. And so it must now seem to his successor, Mrs Margaret Thatcher. A week ago, she returned, tired but triumphant, from a tour of north America where she was honoured as no British Prime Minister before her had been since Sir Winston Churchill. And yet this week, as she goes to the Conservative Party's annual conference beside the sea at Blackpool, nothing seems to be going right for Mrs. Thatcher.

A cartoon in one newspaper showed Mrs. Thatcher standing in a chariot and carrying a banner, saying "June 9" which was, of course, the date of her famous election victory. She is about to ride through a triumphal arch representing the conservative conference, but the arch is cracking and large lumps of masonry are falling from it.

Not all of the lumps of masonry which threaten to fall on Mrs. Thatcher's head

are of equal magnitude. By international standards, one of them must seem a petty affair even though it has assumed large proportions in Britain during the past week. It is the revelation by the Trade and Industry Minister, Mr. Cecil Parkinson, that he had had an affair with his secretary, that he had promised to marry her, but then decided instead to stay with his wife, and that the secretary is going to have Mr. Parkinson's baby in January.

Even by the exacting standards of British public life, Mr. Parkinson's behaviour does not seem outrageous or reprehensible. It does seem to have been a genuine love affair. There is no question of the sexual depravity or the threats to national security that some of the political scandals of the nineteen-sixties posed to the government of the day. Mrs. Thatcher knew about Mr. Parkinson's affair and refused to accept his resignation, hoping presumably that the whole affair would be forgotten within a few days. But it has not



The unidentified man stabs policeman (sprawled on the ground) his third victim.

Man runs amok, kills three people

MANILA (AP) — A man who ran amok and stabbed to death three people in a street rampage before police shot him to death lay unclaimed in a funeral home Wednesday with no relative coming forward to identify or mourn him, police said.

Four days after the man ran out half-naked in the streets of suburban Quezon City stabbing anyone he could see, investigators still have no clue as to who he was, where he came from or what his motives were.

"He didn't have a single identifying mark on his body, not a single item in his pocket," homicide investigator Cpl. Tiburcio Empysynso said. "He was an absolute stranger. All we could guess is he was between 30 to 40 years old."

The man had terrorized a whole neighbourhood when he walked into a restaurant, grabbed a butcher's knife and an ice pick and stabbed a customer to death. He also stabbed to death an occupant of a passing vehicle.

An off-duty policeman, Epifanio Canon Jr., resting in a nearby house and clad

only in shorts, came out shooting and killed the man down with automatic weapons fire after cornering him in a cream compound.

"The policeman who shot him said he was like a zombie," Empysynso said. "He was hit several times and was wounded but still he kept coming at them. Even the policemen got scared of him."

Photographers Albert Garcia and Staana of the Manila Newspaper "Express" making routine rounds, took a dramatic sequence of shots showing the man chasing and stabbing Canon. A crowd of people gathered around the scene as the man went after the 25-year-old policeman who then scrambled to the roof of a building and hid.

Tempo jeep which then sideswiped an attacker, knocking him down. "I never want to shoot a scene like this again," Garcia said.

been forgotten, and the reasons for that provide an intriguing insight into what is going on in British politics today.

It is clear that many members of the Conservative Party are using the Parkinson affair as a way of indirectly attacking Mrs. Thatcher. The present her style of government, particularly her authoritarianism, her inability to tolerate criticism or even a different point of view from her own and they resent the charmed circle of ministers, with which she surrounds herself. Mr. Parkinson is one of them. He has risen rapidly through the political ranks and was until recently the influential chairman of the Conservative Party and, as such, one of the main architects of Mrs. Thatcher's election victory in June.

But there are also weightier criticisms of the government's record. Many Conservatives are also resentful of the government's handling of the current round of cuts in the national health service. Ministers protest that they are not cutting back on health care, but merely calling a halt to the expensive growth of health service bureaucracy. But this argument is clearly not believed by many Conservatives who devote much of their own lei-

sure time to sitting on hospital management boards and the like.

Another piece of masonry which threatens Conservative Party unity is a recent report that the party has been infiltrated by right-wing extremists, who are stridently anti-black and anti-immigrant.

Already the party is being forced to tighten its scrutiny of candidates for elections. And all this is happening at a time when the opposition Labour Party, from its own conference last week, patched over its divisions and elected an energetic, young leader, Mr. Neil Kinnock. The opinion polls now show Labour challenging the Conservatives more keenly than at any time for two years.

So Mrs. Thatcher's triumphal entry into the Conservative Party conference is not as triumphant as she would be wished. Her government is not as secure as it seems, and there is no evidence of an open conservative revolt against her. But it will be interesting to see if, from now on, Mrs. Thatcher tries to outflank her critics or whether, clear politician that she is, she is able to bend with the waves and come out stronger after the conference.

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Amman, 20-26 October 1983

Airport conference hopes crash

US is reported to be debating an 'inevitable' Syrian role

BEIRUT — Artillery and rocket fire rumbled across three fronts in Lebanon on Wednesday as hope fizzled that leaders of the country's warring factions could be brought together in a scheduled national reconciliation conference.

The Associated Press reported that a US Marine was wounded when a car bomb exploded as a convoy of American military vehicles passed by the Kuwaiti embassy of Beirut's southern edge. A spokesman said he was only superficially injured.

Police reported eight people were killed and 27 injured as the Lebanese army and opposition Druze and Shiite militiamen exchanged artillery and rocket fire in the mountainous east of Beirut and the shantytowns south of the city.

Six of the dead were civilians, police said.

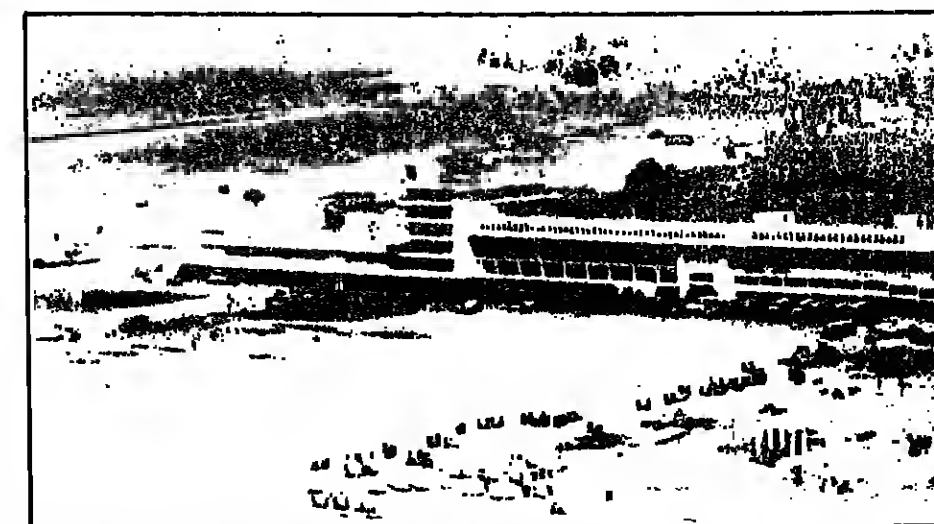
Both the government-run radio and privately owned stations said Druze and Christian militiamen fought day-long battles with artillery and multiple rocket launchers in the Kharrub region just above the Israeli army's defence line along the Awali River in southern Lebanon.

President Amin Gemayel's cabinet announced after its weekly meeting that it was assessing its adherence to opening the national reconciliation meeting at 11 a.m. on Thursday at Beirut International Airport.

But with opposition leaders announcing they would not attend, there was little hope the meeting would be held.

Rashid Karmi, the Sunni Muslim ex-prime minister who is one of the three leaders of the anti-government National Salvation Front, announced in Tripoli that he and his partners would not attend any meeting at the airport.

"The site is unacceptable for us. We in the Salvation Front call upon the president to choose another site for the dialogue," Karmi told reporters in the northern port



Waiting expectantly: Beirut Airport, proposed scene of the Lebanese reconciliation conference, as seen on Tuesday (AP Wirephoto)

80 kilometres north of Beirut. "The airport lacks and will continue to lack the basic security conditions necessary for holding the national dialogue there."

He made the statement after meeting with Marwan Hamadeh, an aide to Druze leader Walid Junblatt. Mr. Hamadeh later said Mr. Karmi also spoke for Mr. Junblatt and the third partner in the Syrian-backed front, former President Suleiman Franjeh.

The reconciliation conference — intended to deal with the underlying cause of the almost continual turmoil since Lebanon's 1975-76 civil war — was called for in the ceasefire agreement ending September's three weeks of fighting.

The ceasefire itself was first shattered with gunfire 2 1/2 hours after it was declared on 26 September and it has been broken in some form every day since.

Star Washington Correspondent Abdulsalam Y. Massarueh filed this report on Wednesday.

President Reagan began on Tuesday, 18 October a comprehensive review with his new national security adviser, Robert McFarlane, of US policy in the Middle East. The consultations included issues related to the future of Lebanon, the Iran-Iraq war, the Palestinian question and others.

The main purpose of the process was thought to be to enable the US administration to deal with Syria, which is seen as holding the cards in the Lebanese quag-

miere. At stake are the contentions of two schools of thought in the Reagan camp with regard to how to treat Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad and his new power in the area.

One of the views says that Washington has no choice but to accommodate the Syrians, who are emerging as able to exercise a veto power over the present and the future of Lebanon, and on the course of other events in the Middle East, for instance by easing off the pressure on the Iraqi government and opening the Iraqi oil pipeline through Syria, this would envisage eventually bargaining with Syria over the Palestinian issue and the solution to the question of the PLO and Palestine.

The alternative scenario, according to the reliable "Survey of Middle East policy" newsletter, is an approach which is being worked out in the State Department by Peter Rodman, a former aide to Henry Kissinger. He argues, according to the survey, for "US co-operation with Israel as a means of filling the power vacuum now apparent in Lebanon." The US, according to this thesis, should work with the Israelis to promote their "deterrent" image, which has been impaired by widespread domestic opposition to the involvement in Lebanon.

In order to accomplish this task Israel would foster good relations with the Shi'a Muslim population in southern Lebanon. A Saudi renegade Lebanese Army Maj. Saad Haddad, who has developed strong ties with them since the Israeli invasion.

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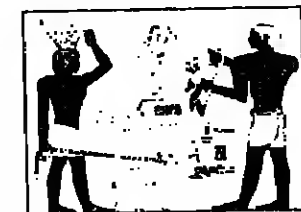
BUSINESSMEN

TAKE NOTE:

With this issue The Star starts providing a weekly service, unique in Jordan to report on bidding, tenders and upcoming contracts in the construction and other sectors. The new column is the core of our expanded emphasis on business and economy, designed to make The Star a must for every businessman, foreign or Jordanian. This week, read about the Urban Development Department's plans for more million-dollar tender invitations; progress in bidding for the Public Works Ministry's new desert highways; the JD 5 million gas turbine project of Jordan Electricity Authority, and more. "Contracts and Contacts", page 7.

Also inside:

- Jordan — New labour law is a starting point, women say: page 2
- Middle East — UK edgy over Gulf developments: page 7
- Analysis — America sells arms to the world: page 9
- Society — Blind man sees again after 42 years: page 14
- On the Air — The week in television: page 22



- WorldPaper, the international newsmonthly, this month looks at the return of the barter economy: Pull-out supplement, after page 12

PLO officials take up talks with Jordan

By Leila G. Deeh

Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — Fateh Central Committee member Hani Al-Hassan and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) representative in Saudi Arabia Rafiq Natshoh met Prime Minister Nudat Badran and Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs/Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Hassan Ibrahim, after arriving in Amman on Tuesday.

The two officials' arrival has revived speculation about Jordanian-Palestinian joint political action.

Mr. Hassan told The Star that the meeting at the prime minister's office lasted two hours. The conditions in the occupied territories were reviewed, particularly the subject of Israeli settlements. Also discussed was the delay in the receipt of funds committed by certain Arab countries for the support of "our people in the occupied territories, whom Israel is now fighting even for their morsel of bread," he said.

He added that at this time the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for the Support of the People of the Occupied Territories must multiply its efforts and financial resources in order to enable it support the steadfastness of the people under occupation.

Also discussed was the subject of the upcoming Arab summit conference in Riyadh. Mr. Hassan said the conference must be held on schedule.

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PLA in Jordan pledges loyalty

By Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Commander of the Palestine Liberation Army's Badr Forces, Colonel Na'im Al-Khatib, this week announced his own and his men's loyalty to the leadership of Mr. Yasser Arafat as Chairman of the PLO's Executive Committee, Commander of the Palestinian forces and of the Palestine Liberation Army.

In a press conference held at his headquarters in Amman on Wednesday, Col. Khatib said he had held intensive meetings with his officers and men in a democratic atmosphere, and they had taken a joint decision to issue a statement concerning the recent announcement made in Damascus by Tareq Al-Khadra, who appointed himself commander of the PLA as a Palestinian army and the army of the PLO, and not the army of any particular group or faction. He said it was to protect the Palestinian National Charter from the revolution, the PLO and the Palestinian people, and had no right whatsoever to attack them.

He accused "certain Arab countries" of using their information platforms to attack Chairman Arafat and spread lies about the legality of his leadership. He called on all sincere Arabs and Palestinians to become aware of the conspiracy which is encouraging the creation of those differences.

The colonel said in his statement that Tareq Al-Khadra was never recognized, either by the PLO or by the PLA itself, as commander when he was appointed by the Syrian leadership. If he considers himself as a commander, he should work in the interest of the PLO, then he should withdraw his forces, now besieging the Palestinian people of Baddawi and Na'ir Al-Bared Camps in north Lebanon, along with the Syrian forces.

Col. Khatib said that the people were doubtless "bleeding with the pain" of finding themselves attacked, instead of protected by their own Palestinian army. But, he said, it was not strange to find these forces preparing to attack the camps, as it was not the first time this would occur, and the "land of Lebanon" is witness to the events of 1976.

The PLA believed from the beginning of the Fateh rift that it was merely a family

tiff, and that they had asked all not to interfere, he said. But a "secret sinist hand" is working towards "tearing apart the Palestinian Revolution and liquidating it, in order to let the enemy live blissfully on the land of Palestine."

The PLA considers these events illegal, and the correct solution would be for the brothers-in-arms to solve their own problems together without outside interference. These occurrences, he said, were an attempt to contain the PLO for reasons the perpetrators themselves know, resulting in a "plague for the Palestinian people." "We warn against taking this path," he added.

He confirmed that the PLA Command in Jordan is bound by the policy line of the PLO, and announced that the army is "taking the path of struggle and unity for the liberation of Palestine."

The pledge they made to the Palestinian martyrs, men, women and children will be kept by insistence on the recovery of all the Palestinian land. "It is a revolution until victory and liberation," he vowed.

Oryx return to their home on the range

By Lella G. Deeb
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — On Tuesday this week the oryx or "Maha" in Arabic, was re-introduced to the wilds in Jordan after an absence of 60 years.

In a special ceremony at the Shaumari Wildlife Reserve His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, released 24 oryx into a special 22 square kilometres fenced area. A 30th animal will be released after an injury he sustained heals but the 31st, Falah, will remain in captivity. Falah is so fierce he has managed to break his horns and will not be able to survive in the wild.

The 24 oryx represent three generations, and have all been bred in captivity. In 1978 four male oryx were sent to Jordan from the Arabian Oryx World Herd Trust in the United States, with help from the World Wildlife Fund and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

They were kept in enclosures and, six months later, four females were received. Later, three more were sent by His Highness Prince Hamad Al Thani of Qatar and an additional three came from Saudi Arabia.

It was found that the Oryx could breed successfully in captivity, and Jordan's herd of 31 is continuing to grow.

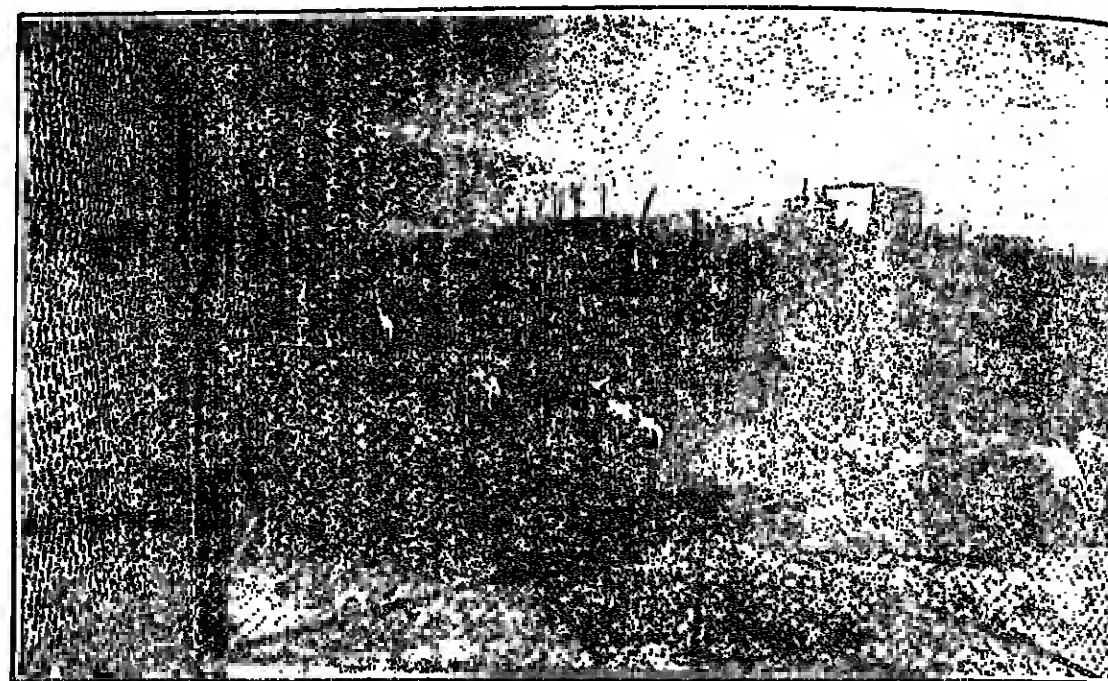
Attending the ceremony on Tuesday was His Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Here on a private visit to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Duke arrived Monday evening after completing a fund-raising tour for the World Wildlife Fund, of which he is honorary president.

One of the most distinguished guests was Mr. Ralph Daly, advisor to the Sultan of Oman on environmental development. Mr. Daly is deeply interested in the oryx, and was instrumental in bringing the Sultan's attention to the Shaumari Wildlife Reserve, for which he provided the financing for the chain-link fence around the 22 square kilometres.

Mr. Daly is an old hand in the Arab world, a former colonial administrator, who speaks Arabic like a native. He knows the oryx and other animals of the region very well and tells a very interesting story of the Omani experiment. The Sultan, he says, was aware that Oman had a great deal to offer scientifically, and that it was essential to understand the facts about flora and fauna and develop them in a rational way. In 1972, the last known herd of oryx in Oman, numbering seven or eight, was in the central desert, protected by the Harassit tribe. In 1974, a feasibility study was made, and Mr. Daly told the Sultan that Oman was the only country in Arabia which could implement a project for reintroducing the oryx into the region.

For this purpose, Dr. Mark Stanley Price, "the key to the whole thing," according to Mr. Daly, came to live among the Harassit and to offer expert advice. The Harassit provide the rangers and their ancient knowledge of the animal. Mr. Daly says the whole tribe is now behind the project and every man, woman and child has sworn to protect the herd.

The Omani herd is now being built up slowly from small Arabian consignments. The first herd was released into the wild



Arabian oryx run towards freedom for the first time in 60 years at Shaumari Reserve (Photo by Hassan Ibrahim)

In 1982 and the second will be let out in April next year.

Mr. Daly said the oryx must be built up into a cohesive herd under a senior male and female oryx. He said that one or two young males may split away with some females to form their own herds, but normally there is one dominant male, who does all the mating himself.

When a calf is born, the herd bull, who is most probably the father, pays a lot of attention to the calf, stays with the mother and protects them both. When the calf begins to move, the male "chivvies" it along and makes sure it follows the mother, to prevent it being lost in the sandstorms and fogs of the desert. It keeps this up for about a week, making certain the calf attaches itself to the mother. By that

time, the mother is pregnant again, and the bull loses interest. The gestation period is about 10 months so they are able to breed quickly.

The President of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, Anis Muasher, said that the mother usually digs into the sand under a bush and hides her calf. But if she suspects an enemy approaching, she will stand at a distance from the calf to divert the enemy's attention from it. He said the oryx are not fleet, but make up for it by being very fierce, and can impale many large animals on their sharp, long and very straight horns.

Mr. Daly said that the ability of the animal to adapt to the wild was remarkable, and they seemed to have retained their

genetic memory of life in the wild, in spite of being born in captivity. But he said that it was important to keep up the study of the oryx and to maintain its genetic diversity. Inbreeding would for example, cause them to lose their disease resistance, or survive for a long time without water.

Both Mr. Muasher and Mr. Daly agree that the Arab world has come to understand the importance of its natural heritage. For both of them conservation of species, whether animal or plant, means the protection of the future of mankind. "We share the concern of the world society in its anxiety to conserve nature and protect each and every species of wildlife by different means, one of which is the establishment of natural reserves," said Mr. Muasher.

Historians debate history, methodology

By Fadla Faqir
Special to the Star

AMMAN — The fourth Bilad Al-Sham Conference ended at the University of Jordan on Wednesday after a series of symposia which contained much fruitful discussion — but generated some criticisms as to the scientific approach adopted.

Thirty-three papers were presented during the conference, which were prepared specially for the occasion by prominent scholars from the United States, Britain, West Germany, France, Spain, the Netherlands, Italy, Greece, Austria, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Jordan.

The conference was opened on Saturday by His Majesty King Hussein. Papers delivered during the five days dealt with specific aspects and periods of the history of Greater Syria; but theoretical topics also came up for discussion.

Dr. Moawia Ibrahim, head of Yarmouk University's Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Studies and a member of the conference's organizing committee, summed up the gathering's success by saying that "papers have been presented in an excellent manner...much time has been left for discussion, which has so far been very lively and extensive."

"Most people gathered in this room are from the same specialty, they understand each other very well and all symposia are

going on very smoothly and we are very much satisfied with it."

"The participants will have the chance to see some of the sites they are discussing. I hope the discussion will continue also in the field."

"The main goal of these symposia is to try to understand the social and economic development of the area before the coming of Islam and to see on which ground the Muslims could spread their rule in Bilad Al-Sham. Participants are dealing with all kinds of sources: The Latin and Syriac languages as well as old Arabic manuscripts."

One participant, Dr. Wilfred Lockwood of the Chester Beatty Museum in Ireland, told The Star: "It is very interesting to have at the same conference both linguistic papers, archaeological materials as well as discussion of the non-Arabic bibliographical sources such as Greek and Syriac which are of great importance."

But some others felt that more emphasis was needed on the interdisciplinary approach. Dr. Vassilios Christides of the University of Athens, speaking to the audience, said: "Now we have to realize that the new method of research requires to use, in addition to philological and historical sources, anthropology, archaeology and numismatics in archaeology. Archaeology more or less is used, but not enough."

Prof. Adnan Bakhit, head of the University of Jordan's Centre of Documents and Manuscripts and secretary of the con-

ference follow-up committee, said the forthcoming conference will deal totally with the subject of the Islamic conquest of Bilad Al-Sham. He invited participants "to supply us with thoughts, ideas and suggestions for this forthcoming seminar and symposium because we have started contacting people."

Prof. Bakhit said the conference itself might support some small research projects, because "we have some resources where we can finance such short projects."

He said the organizing committee has tried to involve some Ottomanists to examine how much the administration of the Turkish Ottoman Empire inherited from Byzantine administration, both empires having been ruled from the centre of Constantinople (Istanbul).

Acor presents history lecture

AMMAN (Star) — Dr. Irsan Shahid of Georgetown University will lecture on the subject of "Byzantium and the Arabs Before the Rise of Islam" on Sunday, 22 October at the American Centre of Oriental Research (ACOR).

Dr. Shahid, an expert on the subject, is visiting Jordan for the conference on the history of Bilad Al-Sham. His lecture is sponsored by the Friends of Archaeology in co-operation with ACOR.

Northern towns have a special day

Queen Noor tours villages to inspect school services

By Kathy Kaklsh
Star Staff Writer

MONDAY was a day to treasure for hundreds of people living in 16 and five villages further north. School buildings and playgrounds had been thoroughly cleaned and brightly coloured banners were waving in the breeze. School children kept their uniforms neat and their elders were their best clothes for the occasion. Everyone was patiently waiting for the

Queen Noor. As soon as Her Majesty Queen Noor was in sight, the gathered women began their traditional songs and produced their "za-za" children's songs.

That was how Queen Noor was welcomed at the 12 schools she visited that day. Her tour began at the village of Aqreha, located 21 kilometres north of Irbid, where she inspected the town's two elementary/preparatory schools.

The Queen stopped her car as she was leaving the village, when she saw two severely handicapped young men lying on the side of the road. Their mother, who was slightly handicapped, was sitting on the ground beside them. Mother and son both began crying as they saw the Queen. Mr. Ibrahim Al-Mut, the Minister of Social Development, about the problems they were facing.

Hamla, 17 kilometres north of Irbid, is the location of one of

Arab League panel seeks information fund boost

Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — The permanent Information Committee of Arab League states has recommended the immediate increase of the league's information programme fund from \$3 million to \$25 million, says Information Ministry Under-Secretary Peter Salah.

Mr. Salah returned last week from a meeting in Tunis of Arab information ministers sponsored by the Arab League. He told The Star in an interview that the recommendation was made by a committee of Arab states' information under-secretaries to be forwarded to the Arab summit conference in Riyadh next month.

Professional and technical skills are not lacking in the Arab information effort, Mr. Salah stressed. "We Arabs are not less efficient than the Israelis" in this regard, he said. But the obstacle to success of information efforts was the lack of sufficient funds.

He said the surprisingly low figure of \$3 million allotted to the information strategy to promote the Palestinian cause is mostly assigned to Arab League information offices around the world. About \$500,000 is placed at the disposal of the league's central information department.

In addition to the increase to financing, the Information Committee proposed the creation of an investment fund that would be used to finance information programme.

the ancient cities of the Decapolis league, and of two preparatory/secondary schools. These were in good shape to receive the some 1,200 students from the village and from the nearby villages. But the elementary school building, which was originally meant to be a string of shops, was found to be lacking in such facilities as electricity, heating and a playground.

The girl scouts at the Hibras Preparatory School for Girls were led by a girl with a beautiful voice as they sang their welcoming songs. In addition to reaching the young generation, the school has recently opened adult literacy courses for the elders to catch up with their children.

Architectural surveys have recently found the ruins of an ancient Roman city near the town of Beit Ras, which now has a population of 10,000. No one can doubt that the happy spirit of the village's 1,000 students at the two secondary schools was louder than any that the Romans ever made.

It was quite easy to forget all about the country's ancient inhabitants at the Irbid Comprehensive School for Girls, in which everything from mathematics to typing and hairdressing is taught. Established in 1981, the school now has over 1,100 students and 75 teachers.

The Yarmouk University Model School lives up to its name. Two hundred children are now enrolled at the nursery school and the 490 students at the grade school have all the facilities they need — from spacious classrooms and laboratories to a huge gym hall and football field. The school also offers the American teaching system in the 60 foreign students there.

At the university's cafeteria, Queen Noor pleased everyone as

she lined up with the students, a tray in her hands, picked up her lunch, and carried it to the nearest table to sit down and enjoy it.

To mark the day, the Queen opened the Princess Irbid Children's Club and Library, which was established with the aid of donations gathered by the Housewives' Society, whose members realized that there was no such club for children in Irbid. It was nearly impossible to escape the enthusiastic crush of dozens of children and women, who surrounded the Queen as she was leaving.



Queen Noor looks in on a writing class during her tour of village schools in northern Jordan (Photo by Hassan Ibrahim)

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Indonesia promotes trade with products of 35 firms in fair

By Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — The second Indonesian Trade Promotion Fair this week will display to Jordanians the wide range of products and technical expertise that the southeast Asian state has to offer.

The fair will be held in the Petra Ballroom of the Regency Palace Hotel from 24-28 October. Thirty-five participating firms will put on display products ranging from textiles to plywood and teak furniture, as well as various foodstuffs including tea and coffee. Onnie Mounier, Director of the Indonesian Trade Centre in Amman, told The Star that examples of more advanced technology, such as telecommunications equipment, radios and cassette players, would also be included.

The first trade fair was held last September, at the Amman Marriott Hotel. The second is sponsored by the Indonesian Trade Centre, which opened in Amman in March 1983. The centre represents the Indonesian government in promoting Indonesian-Jordanian commercial relations. The furthering of these relations might lead to closer diplomatic ties being established, Mr. Mounier said.

Tal criticises slack town councils...

By Khader Mansour
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — Serious and persistent violations of building and zoning regulations have affected almost all Jordanian cities and towns, says Awad Al-Tal, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment. Despite the ministry's concern over these developments it is chiefly the responsibility of each individual municipality to prevent such violations, he told The Star in an interview.

Enforcement could include the demolition of any building constructed illegally or in contravention with the terms of the building permit. But Mr. Tal said it is "annoying and disappointing" that certain municipalities, despite warnings from the ministry, have at times failed to apply town planning requirements strictly.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hassan Al-Momani is planning to make brief visits to all municipalities in the kingdom, soon to stress the regulations "in an attempt to put an end to this bad situation," he said.

"The ministry is determined to pressure all municipalities involved, to take every possible measure to correct such errors and violations in relation to the strict town planning requirements," Mr. Tal said that almost all violations came under the category of non-observance of building permit terms.

"Certain citizens who obtained permits to build villas or residential apartments have erected instead, premises and apartments for commercial purposes. Examples of such violations are quite numerous and occur in almost all Jordanian cities and towns." He cited the example of one well-known supermarket in western Jabal Amman whose owner was originally licensed only to build a residence. This situation dates back many years, but "nevertheless the ministry will not tolerate (its continuance) under any circumstances, because any tolerance in this respect would cause a distortion of our cities and towns." The ministry, he stressed, will spare no possible effort to straighten things, as required by town planning law and regulations.

Speaking of the four-storey apartment building owned by Grindlays Bank in Shmeisani which is threatened with collapse, he said it is "the first of its kind." Grindlays, he said, should bear the blame for its fail-

ure, "because — according to my source of information — Grindlays, totally depended on the contractor's skill and did not have the building examined by a qualified architectural body as generally advised and directed by this ministry." He went on to say that other types of violation of building permit terms include building more stories than prescribed in the permit, and exceeding the boundaries of one's own land. Such

...as Suweileh mayor points to achievements

By Hamdan Al-Haj
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — The municipality of Suweileh is making good progress, with a record budget and the implementation of several important projects, says Mayor Muhammad Dalahmah. Not all Suweileh residents agree with the mayor's optimistic assessment of the town's progress and they are unhappy about certain projects.

Increased taxes and contributions from the Arab Cities Organization and the Cities and Village Development Bank (CVDB) combined to give Suweileh a JD 2 million budget for 1983.

With this money, says the mayor, the municipality has been able to make various improvements. It has increased the number of rubbish collectors from 16 to 72, and bought 200 rubbish bins and a new garbage collection truck. A doctor, an engineer and a sub-engineer have been appointed to the staff of the municipality. Furthermore the city borders have been fenced by wire, new roads have been opened, existing roads have been paved and street lighting has been well-maintained. But, according to some residents, the footpath improvements involved re-paving areas that were already paved and tiling footpaths that were already asphalted.

Other main complaint concerned water problems. Mayor Dalahmah says that while no-body could deny that there is a shortage, the situation has improved. Water, he explained, is localised in a certain area and not distributed fairly. The municipality has tried to solve the problem by asking inhabitants to buy water tanks and fill them so that they will not suffer when the piped water falls. The problem, he added, has increased with the towns rising population

violations, and others, are first and foremost, the direct responsibility of the municipality concerned.

"The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, however, maintains the full authority to effectively pressure any municipal council to observe and adhere to town planning law and regulations — including the liquidation of any municipal council which fails to do so."

and the arrival of summer visitors. The municipality also has to supply water to Safout, The King Hussein Medical Centre, Fuhais and the cement factory. He said the Deir Alla water project is due to pass through Suweileh and this should help ease the problem.

Dr. Dalahmah said other problems facing Suweileh are a housing shortage and the need for a sewage treatment plant.

He said the housing problem stems from the increasing number of students from the University of Jordan and the Community Colleges who seek accommodation in the area. In addition a number of foreign workers spend their days working in Amman and come to reside in Suweileh. The mayor says these problems could be overcome but no plans have been made so far.

The sewage treatment plant is one of the major difficulties faced by the council but it is looking ahead to cope with it. The council is planning to co-operate with the Ministry of Public Works on this problem.

One immediate problem the council has faced is the land collapse which took place last month on the site of Suweileh's new commercial centre.

The centre, which is due for completion in 18 months, is to have two floors, a parking area, a vegetable market, a meat market, 88 show rooms, governmental offices, a library and a club. It is expected to provide the municipality with an income of JD 250,000 per year from rents.

Some critics say the site should never have been chosen because it contains a water spring. In addition to this, it was discovered during excavations that residents adjacent to the site had connected their sewage pipes to a rain water channel. This bad subsequently become saturated, it began to leak and after the excavations started site subsided

Lowest for the year

By Mamdouh El-Ghaly

THIS WEEK'S total handling reached its lowest this year amounting to JD 1,350,000 which is equal to the handling volume of a single day under normal circumstances. Despite the slight improvement in share prices, the week was very quiet, on all levels.

Over 560,000 shares were handled at a market value of JD 1.35 million divided among 1,300 contracts; a decrease of 26.4 per cent compared to last week.

The daily handling average reached JD 270,000 with a deviation of 29.5 per cent or 5.9 per cent of total handling around this average, thus indicating instability in handling within very faint daily movement.

Banks

The banks sector had 65.7 per cent of total handling; a decrease of 8.8 points compared to last week. Within this sector five out of fourteen banks had 73.8 per cent of the sector or 48.6 per cent of total. The Jordan-Gulf Bank had 25.5 per cent of sector — 16.8 per cent of total — The Islamic Bank had 15.8/10.4 per cent, The Jordanian Financial Securities had 13.4/8.8 per cent, The Bank of Jordan had 10.0/6.6 per cent and the Jordanian Financing House had 9.1/6.1 per cent.

Industry

Industrial shares took 26.1 per cent of total handling; an increase of 8 points compared to last week. Within this sector five out of thirty companies had 33.5 per cent of sector or 14.2 per cent of total. The Arab Chemical Detergents had 14.9 per cent of sector — 4.1 per cent of total — The Jordan Petroleum Refinery had 12.9/3.4 per cent, The Jordan Cement Factory had 9.1/2.4 per cent, The National Industries had 8.7/2.3 per cent and Jordan Tobacco and Cigarettes Company had 7.8/2.1 per cent.

Insurance

The Insurance sector had 4.6 per cent of total handling; an increase of 2.9 points compared to last week. Within this sector two out of eight companies had 59.1 per cent of sector or 2.7 per cent of total handling.

Al-Quds Insurance had 31.5 per cent of sector or 1.4 per cent of total and the General Insurance Company had 27.6/1.3 per cent.

Services

The services sector had 3.6 per cent of total handling; a decrease of 2.1 points compared to last week. Within this sector two out of seven companies had 57.1 per cent of sector or 2.1 per cent of total handling. The National General Investments had 38.4 per cent of sector or 1.4 per cent of total and the Arab Investment and International Trade had 18.7/0.7 per cent.

The shares of 59 companies were handled during this week with 17 companies gaining in share prices including: Chemical detergents closing at JD 3.910, up from JD 3.600/The Jordanian Financing House at JD 1.160, up from JD 1.100/The Islamic Bank at JD 3.340, up from JD 3.180 and the Jordan-Kuwait Bank at JD 3.990 up from JD 3.840.

The share price of 25 companies decreased including: Petra Insurance at JD 1.600 down from JD 1.830/Petra Bank at JD 1.700 down from JD 1.850 down from JD 9.580/Al-Arab Insurance at JD 1.700 down from JD 1.810/General Mining at JD 2.200 down from JD 2.300 and Arab International Hotels at JD 0.650 down from JD 0.670. Seventeen companies showed no change in their share prices.

The index calculated by The Star at closing time came to 350/240; an increase of 0.7 points or 0.2 per cent.

In the over-the-counter market over 620,000 shares were handled at a market value of about JD half a million dinars.

The weekly record

- A. Companies showing an increase in stock prices
- B. Companies with a price decrease
- C. The mean record figure

20 October 1983



Tankers out of use: Now is the time to buy?

Tankers may go under as oil trade evolves

Slump presents opportunity for Opec

By Robert Poullot
Star Economy Analyst

ONLY TWENTY years ago, anything larger than 20,000 dead weight tons (DWT) was considered to be a super-tanker. In the early 1960s, ships below 20,000 DWT were the norm, accounting for about two-thirds of the world tanker fleet.

But the 1967 war and the closure of the Suez Canal changed all that. Very large crude carriers (VLCCs) of 175,000 DWT, capable of moving a full day's production of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates at their 1983 pumping rate in a single voyage, gradually took the lead.

The days of 20,000 DWT tankers were virtually over, and they now account for less than 20 per cent of the world tanker fleet. Most of those mini-tankers are owned by the USSR, China, Indonesia and small independents east of Suez.

Yet, their size allowed them to survive the freight crisis of 1981-82 much better than most other categories in the world tanker fleet.

Between 1981 and this summer, the total world tonnage dropped by nearly 8 per cent, to a much lower level than in 1978. The collapse of freight rates as a result of the economic recession, a declining energy demand and the dwindling role for imported oil in total energy consumption, forced shipowners to scrap a record 16 million DWT and to lay up as much as 57 million DWT of tankers last year.

What really hit the large tankers was that the whole oil trade pattern which still accounts for nearly half of world sea trade, was marked by larger shipments of short-haul crudes. North America purchased a greater share of its oil from Mexico, Venezuela and the North Sea, thus cutting significantly the length of haul by sea. On the other hand, the greater use of the Suez pipeline in Egypt and the new Saudi Petroleum reaching the Red Sea, together with the enlarged Suez Canal, further reduced the average length of haul.

The result was therefore catastrophic for VLCC and ULCC tankers. Nearly a year ago, in November, 30 large crude carriers amounting to 7.4 million DWT were idle in the Gulf area. The freight rates were so low for those vessels that they barely covered their engine consumption of bunker oil and the port charges.

The seven sisters

The impact was such on the seven oil majors that their owned tanker fleet had to be drastically cut by nearly 30 per cent between June 1978 and June this year. The worst hit was Gulf Oil, whose tanker fleet was slashed by 55 per cent down to a mere 2.4 million DWT. British Petroleum and Texaco followed close behind, with 42 per cent cuts. Then comes Exxon, and Royal Dutch-Shell with reductions of 26 to 30 per cent. Social and Mobil were the least affected, with cuts ranging between 12 and 15 per cent.

Today, the Seven Sisters account for only 23 per cent of the world tanker fleet as opposed to 37 per cent only five years ago.

The result of the freight crisis was to push the rate of inactive tankers this summer to 2.7 per cent. In the range of the VLCC and ULCC vessels, the rate was even higher, standing at 38 per cent. According to John I. Jacobs, a British analyst of the world tanker scene, the volume of new orders

for tankers dipped in the second half of 1982 to a record low since 1958. The contracts involved only 17 tankers with 878,000 DWT.

The crisis was so severe last year, claims a study made by Drewry Shipping Consultants of London, that the prices of vessels collapsed. An owner who acquired a 60,000 DWT tanker in 1972 and sold it in 1980 could have made a profit of \$7.1 million. But had the same vessel been bought in 1974 and resold in 1982, the resale would have yielded a net loss of \$3.4 million.

According to another shipping consultant, Fearneleys, of Oslo, second-hand vessels slumped to a mere \$5 million for a 350,000-tonner (against a \$40 million in 1979); \$7.5 million for a 150,000-tonner (\$22 million three years ago) and \$8 million for a 30,000-tonner products carrier (\$18.5 million in 1979).

Opportunity for Opec

The low market value for second-hand tankers is a unique opportunity for Opec producers to jump in and enlarge their tanker fleets, which still account for only 6.5 per cent of world tonnage or less than a third of what is owned by the Seven Sisters. "It is now over three years since it was necessary to consider freight as a significant factor when selling crude and products, but we will soon be entering a period when this is no longer the case," insists Kelvin Shillento, director of Internat Ltd., a London-based firm of shipping consultants.

Last fall, he predicted that as freight rates would resume an upward curve, the price of tankers would surge.

And that is now happening. In the last three months there have been signs that the Seven Sisters are reversing the decline in their market participation. There is a growing feeling in the industry that the tide has already turned and that the recent rise in tanker demand will continue, causing an increase in freight rates and a push for tanker prices.

The rationale behind Shillento's thinking is that the emergence of the Middle East as a major refining centre will coincide with a massive change in freight market conditions during the middle of this decade. "Can Gulf producers afford to pay four or five, or even 10 times the present freight to marine, or their product competitively in Europe and America against still prolific North Sea fields and short-haul African crudes and producers?"

The response so far has been positive. Though rather slow, Opec's part, sure enough, Saudi Arabia has now reached the 11th place among tanker fleet owners. It just overtook the USSR (tanker fleet owned by 6.5 million or a third of a combined tonnage of 6.5 million or a third of the kingdom is pursuing a very aggressive Opec policy. Its fleet is now growing at the unprecedented pace of 55 per cent per annum as against an average of 20 per cent for the Arab world as a whole. Kuwait comes second in the Gulf with 2.6 million DWT and the Kuwait Oil Tanker Co. is acquiring tankers rapidly. Over the past year, it purchased a 28,000 DWT products tanker, three 65,000 DWT mixed crude/product tankers and one 290,000 DWT VLCC. A second VLCC was scheduled for delivery this year.

But the real issue is whether the pace will build up against a background of persistent sluggish oil market conditions and fall oil surplus.

Desert road contracts coming

THE PUBLIC Works Ministry's Roads Department on 12 October opened tenders for three road projects and tenders are now under consideration. Bids for the 10-kilometre Awajeh-Swaga route, which is to be a four-lane dual carriageway, ranged from JD 17 million to JD 26 million. The Zarqa highway contract, also a dual carriageway of 12 kilometres length with two interchanges, attracted several bids, the lowest of which was around JD 7 million. The contract to build a road to the Rashdiya plant of the Smith Cement Company attracted bids in the range of JD 2.75 million to JD 4.5 million.

Ministry officials say that firms bidding for the contracts, but not necessarily for all of them, include the local National Construction Company (in association with Italy's Impresio), Ramnalla's Contramem, locals General Equipment Company with West Germany's Faber and Schnepf and five other local firms: Danud Saleman and Brothers, Trocon, Hudhud Shand, Massar and Triple Construction Company.

Bids are due at the ministry for another road project, the 52-kilometre Zarqa-Mafray-Syrian border road, on 23 October. This is a four-lane divided highway for 32 kilometres and two lanes for the remaining distance.

UDD tendering continues

OBSERVERS RECEIVED a surprise when bids were opened for the Urban Development Department's (UDD's) Qumelsmech new area construction scheme on 2 October. For once, China Construction Engineering Corporation (CCEC) was not hands-down the lowest bidder for the Qumelsmech job, the largest of the three new areas (MEED 12:8:83). The Chinese have won all the earlier major construction jobs in the World-Bank financed scheme easily with low bids. A technical committee is now studying the new bids, which a UDD official described as "very competitive."

The department is now selling documents for another contract, the erection of schools and community buildings at Qumelsmech. Five firms have bought the documents so far; closing date is 29 November.

Canal project tenders due

BIDS WILL be opened on 23 October for the Jordan Valley Authority's JD 20 million project to extend the East Ghur main canal by 14 kilometres and extend irrigation to a further 6,000 hectares. The project is partly funded by a DAI 95 million loan from West Germany's Kreditanstalt fuer Wiederaufbau (KfW).

JEA studies gas turbine bids

TWELVE INTERNATIONAL firms submitted bids for the turnkey provision of a 60-megawatt gas turbine power generating plant at the Jordan Electricity Authority's (JEA's) Amman South substation. JEA officials say, "The tenders are now being evaluated and an award is expected to be announced by early November."

Bids were opened on 5 September after tenders were called only a little more than a month before that. The JEA officials told The Star this short bidding period was made possible by the fact that the contract was a "package" deal. Depending on the bid accepted, the plant to be built will contain one, two or three generating units. Total estimated contract value is around JD 5 million.

Mini-hydro tenders invited

BIDS ARE due this week for the provision of two small hydroelectric power generating plants to the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA). The JVA wants to build a one-megawatt plant at Adaslyia, the outlet of the new canal from the springs at Mukhabbeh; and a 0.3-mw generator at North Shunch, location of the Wadi Al-Arah dam. Closing date is Thursday, 20 October.

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economy

World meeting stresses supply problem

Petroleum prices are now realistic, conference says

By Khalid Hasan

NEW DELHI — Oil is now priced at about its real value in energy markets instead of at the bargain levels of a decade ago, the World Energy Conference declared last week.

"A major imbalance in energy prices has been removed," said the final document produced at the end of the six-day meeting here, attended by more than 1,500 delegates from 70 countries.

The 12th congress considered a range of subjects, including conservation, new and renewable energy sources, oil substitution, protection of the environment and the quality of life.

It paid particular attention to the energy needs and prospects of developing countries but fell short of making specific recommendations that would alleviate their problems.

A conference spokesman told a press conference later that it was "not the consensus" of the body to make recommendations at the conclusion of its deliberations. "We merely debate issues that require urgent action. We are not like the United Nations in this respect," he stated.

The conference document called for reduced dependence on oil, but recognized

that for Third World countries embarked on programmes of rapid development the role of oil was crucial in the energy mix, and perhaps the only available option.

The conference, attended by large delegations from industrialized countries — consisting in the main of multinational company executives — singled out oil as the "culprit" in the economic problems faced by the developed world in the last decade.

It was the shock of the oil prices after oil from abroad had been allowed to become the dominant source of energy for many countries that prompted adoption of policies of self-reliance and diversification," said the document.

"It is because oil is regarded as a culprit in the recent past, because its availability is still suspect and because it is the major energy source that it is expected to be exhausted first," participants agreed it was not possible to generalize about universally appropriate routes to oil substitution in developing countries as local circumstances had to dictate what was economically and technically feasible.

The final document did not include any criticism of growing protectionism in the industrialized countries, the debt problem of the Third World, the drying-up of aid and concessional assistance or the rapidly widening chasm between rich and poor nations.

On technology transfer to Third World countries, it stopped short of making pos-

itive recommendations. Although the conference called for international collaboration, it did not specify the framework and while appealing for larger investments in Third World energy it did not say from where they were to come.

The document endorsed the growing use and public acceptability of nuclear energy in industrialized countries and the need to extend it to the less affluent nations, but confined the recommendation to the observation that "given the importance of nuclear power development in the longer term horizon, there were expressions of hope for developmental assistance and greater international co-operation in this area."

On the quality of life, one of the major themes of the conference, the final document was equally non-committal, saying it was difficult to agree on precise definitions of the concept, which could mean different things to different people depending on their socio-economic background.

The conference stressed the "need for imparting education and manpower development in the field of energy and adoption of an integrated approach in developing energy resources."

Beware 'return of the oil glut' — Sabah

KUWAIT (OPECNA) — Opec member countries have been warned by Kuwait Oil Minister Ali Khalifa Al-Sabah not to exploit the current stability of the world oil market by increasing their crude production beyond Opec quotas.

In an interview with the newspaper "Al-Qabas", the minister said "any increase in production will spur consumer states to stockpiling", which would result in "a return of the oil glut".

Sheikh Al-Sabah said attempts by Opec

On self-reliance, the conference there were two main aspects: price sources of energy and technology.

"In identifying the sources of price energy appropriate to the situation and establishing resources to achieve self-reliance, the objectives of developing and industrialized countries are not dissimilar. On the other hand, there are differences between developed and developing countries in the approach and objectives where the choice of technology is concerned."

The document noted that the problem of deforestation in the Third World was a crisis but a catastrophe, and ended the work being done to fight this problem by the United Nations Environmental Programme. It called for special attention to international collaboration in the planning, reporting and interpretation of environmental impacts.

Finally, the document warned that "a global supply of adequate energy in coming decades is a matter of the utmost importance. In particular, it is urgent the more fortunate help the less fortunate. Sufficient appropriate action will be taken until there is sufficient awareness."

members to exceed production quotas would be "a threat to the stability of the oil market", adding that the improvement in the market should not be taken as "green light" for Opec countries to increase their output.

He said he knew of no moves within the organization to raise output or the benchmark price, and added that the production ceiling should remain intact "at least until the end of the last quarter of the year".



CHYIAH, Lebanon — Women and children flee from the town of Chiyah in the southern suburbs of Beirut as fresh fighting broke out among 'Amal' Muslim militiamen, the Lebanese army and Christian Phalangists. The fighting was one of the several violations of the three-week old ceasefire. On Sunday, unidentified gunmen attacked the US Marine base at Beirut airport killing one Marine and injuring another. AP Wirephoto

Britain fears a wider Gulf war

By Len Rockingham
New London Correspondent

LONDON — The situation in the Gulf war is causing great concern in London, in both foreign office and journalistic circles. Evidence of this came last week with the report that the Iraqis had sunk two Iranian warships, and there was speculation that they had used their new French super Etendard planes, equipped with "exocet" missiles.

The mystery about whether the French super Etendard have or have not been delivered to Iraq is seen in London as part of the war of nerves being waged against the regime of Ayatollah Khomeini. The Ayatollah has threatened that, if the French planes are used to attack Iranian oil installations, then the Iranians will close the Strait of Hormuz and make the Arab states in the Gulf suffer terribly. These threats are being taken very seriously in London, where there is a fear that both the United States and Britain could become involved in a wider Gulf war.

It is for this reason that the British government has been advising caution upon the French, and questioning their policy of trying to force the Iraqis to come to the peace table and negotiate an end of the war with Iraq. This was a view point that Mr. Thatcher's minister put strongly to the Iraqi first Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Tariq Yasin Ramadan when he visited London earlier this month. Britain feels that like France it has too many investments at stake in the Gulf for them to be jeopardised by wider hostilities. And yet there is a growing feeling in Britain that it may indeed come to wider hostilities.

Much publicity has been given in the British newspapers in recent weeks to the state of readiness of the American Rapid Deployment Force in Florida,



French 'super Etendard' fighter planes on show

and to American military assistance to friendly Arab states. On the British side, the Royal Navy aircraft carrier, "Hermes", which saw service in the Falklands war, is due to visit Alexandria with one thousand Marines during the next week. The British will carry out joint training exercises with the Egyptian armed forces, but the British government is keen to play down the significance of these manoeuvres. At the moment Britain's attitude towards the Gulf war is, in the words of the old English proverb, "to walk quietly but to carry a big stick".

Nordic-Arab seminar in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM (Star) — A seminar on the Nordic countries and the League of Arab States will be held in Stockholm from 24-26 October. Its purpose will be to enhance knowledge and information concerning the participants' societies and cultures.

The seminar is being organized by the Swedish Institute in association with the Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry and the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities. The rest are the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and the Federation of Swedish Industries.

According to a release by the organizers, the seminar will be attended by specialists in politics, economics, research and higher education. Between 35 and 40 delegates are expected to represent the Arab League. The seminar will open with introductory addresses by the Secretary General of the Arab League Mr. Qadhi Kilbi and the Swedish Prime Minister Mr. Olof Palme.

20 October 1983

20 October 1983

middle east

MIDDLE EAST IN BRIEF

Oman to receive Saudi loan

MUSCAT — Oman, Tuesday signed two agreements with the Saudi Development Fund whereby Oman will obtain loans amounting SR 55 million. Part of the loan will be used to finance the building of a centre for technology in Khwair and a vocational training centre in Abri.

Regan to visit the Gulf

KUWAIT — United States Secretary of Treasury Donald Regan will visit Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain, and possibly other Gulf states toward the end of the month, an American embassy spokesman here disclosed.

The newspaper Al-Rai Al-Aam earlier said in a report that Mr. Regan would be seeking more investments in the US from the oil-rich Gulf states to help offset an American economic recession.

Fateh executive meet

KUWAIT — An emergency meeting of Fateh Leaders was held overnight Monday in this Gulf state to discuss the split riddling the main group within the Palestine Liberation Organization and the threat to Yasser Arafat's leadership of the PLO. Sources said the eight members of the Fateh Executive Committee who met reaffirmed their support for Arafat as Fateh leader and PLO chairman, and for his Commander-in-Chief Khalil Wazir.

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The British Council wishes to announce that the PUBLIC DISCUSSION on

"The Conservation of Historic Buildings" under the chairmanship of H.R.H. PRINCESS WUDAN ALI formerly scheduled for Sunday 23 October has been postponed until WEDNESDAY 30 NOVEMBER 1983

THE JERUSALEM STAR 7

IN BRIEF

UK to sell water to Middle East

LONDON — Britain is launching a campaign to sell millions of gallons of fresh water to the Middle East. The Water Authority in Wales hopes the sale of water will bring in millions of pounds annually in export earnings. The water could be used for agricultural and industrial purposes in countries with only limited natural water supplies. The Welsh water authority is negotiating with shipping companies involved in transporting crude oil to European terminals. Instead of returning empty to the Middle East, supertankers could be filled with fresh water. The authority has also been negotiating with esso for the lease of a disused refinery and pumping facilities at the milford haven oil terminal in south Wales.

Start due on Iranian project

TOKYO — Work on the joint Iranian-Japanese Bandar Khomeini petrochemical complex will be resumed in January, it was announced here. The Iran Chemical Development Company (ICDC), the Japanese partner in the venture, said the resumption of work would follow Iran's payment of 11 million in overdue interest on loans for the project. The Chiyoda Chemical Engineering and Construction Company and the Iryo Engineering Corporation, recently named as general contractors, are sending a survey team to check war damage at the petrochemical plant. An ICDC spokesman said that at the same time, work on the liquefied petroleum gas unit and other undamaged equipment would be started. The project was 85 per cent complete when work stopped in 1980.

'Great strides' in Saudi Development

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia, now more than halfway through its third five-year development plan, had made "great strides" in all sectors of the economy, Planning Minister Hisham Nazer said here. He said between 1970 and 1982, about \$ 197 billion had been spent on development projects, reflecting an annual growth rate of 45 per cent, while the gross national product had risen by 18 per cent a year, from \$ 4.93 billion to \$ 15.67 billion.

Mr. Nazer said in the same 12-year period, investments in equipment, buildings and machinery amounted to \$ 172.42 billion.

Electricity generation expanded from 418 MW to 11,774 MW, with the number of consumers increasing from 1.4 to 7.7 million, while the capacity of Saudi desalination plants was stepped up from 5.1 million to 152.8 million gallons a day.

IMF condemns apartheid

US seen coming in to block loan to South Africa

WASHINGTON — An International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff report citing discrepancies between the treatment of white and black workers in South Africa has been leaked to the press, on the occasion of a US congressional vote on whether to cut off IMF loans to South Africa.

Whether the loan bar is passed by the Congress or not, South Africa is likely to face much tougher opposition to any future loan application if the present climate at the fund persists.

The staff report was quoted approvingly by executive directors of the IMF at a board meeting in June, when the South African offer to pay off last November's loan early was widely welcomed.

The \$1.1 billion loan was granted over the objections of a small number of countries, led by Saudi Arabia and Libya, that South Africa's labour practices were uneconomic and should be grounds for refusal of an IMF standby credit.

It is IMF practice to acknowledge economic reasons for refusing loans but not political ones — a practice that has encouraged delegates to express political objections in economic code.

When the November loan was granted, a number of directors asked the staff to investigate the labour practices which had provoked the controversy. The resulting report says the large discrepancy in government expenditure on education and training between race groups is a "major impediment to progress."

It says the discrepancy may have narrowed in recent years, but cites the non-governmental Institute of Race Relations ratio



Black worker picking cotton in South Africa: Discrimination is an 'impediment to progress'

for 1979-1980 of almost 13 to one in spending on white schoolchildren and black schoolchildren.

Despite improvements which are acknowledged, the report concludes that "on present trends, the discrepancy in distribution of skills is likely to persist over the long run."

Impediments to the mobility of black workers are said to result in large pay differentials between areas, adding to inflationary pressures in some parts and unemployment in labour-surplus areas.

Short-term migrant labour contracts — whereby black workers are forced to return to the point of recruitment — "mitigate against continuity of employment and consequently against on-the-job training."

South African officials generally acknowledge that the

middle east

ICO conference ends without resolutions

PLO exclusion embarrasses organizers

By Mark Bruzonsky

Special to the Star

WASHINGTON — The three day conference organized by the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) in search for peace in the Middle East ended in Washington on 15 October without any concrete resolutions. The conference apparently proved to be an embarrassment for the organizers. There were however a few bitter exchanges between the Arab participants and the Zionist delegates.

One of the main speakers was the editor designate of the "Foreign Affairs Magazine" Mr. William Hyland. In a speech Hyland repeatedly praised the moral and strategic American-Israeli connection and insisted that Palestinian suffering was insignificant in comparison to Jewish suffering during the second World War. On his part, Rabbi Arthur Schneier, an apologist for both US and Israeli governments said "Camp David should be a foundation for further movement... King Hussein should be given the support by many of the Arab states so that he, in concert with the Palestinians from the West Bank should enter into talks with Israel". Together with numerous Egyptian officials who had quickly helped organize the conference, Schneier attempted to convince the assembled Arab participants that the biggest mistake of the conference was their failure to invite representatives from the Israeli government.

Had this been one of the usual, dull, lifeless Washington undertakings ar-

ranged by one of the many foreign policy institutes in Washington, there would be little reason to take notice. American personalities often embarrass themselves with their ignorance about Middle East realities. And American Jewish figures are constantly harping on Camp David and recognition of Israel while avoiding Palestinian rights.

But this was very much not the usual gathering. It was the result of three years of effort by the Islamic Conference Organization and an expenditure approaching \$ 25 million. As such, it totally reflected, in the words of one thoughtful Arab diplomat with decades of experience in Washington, "the Arab's total inability to even arrange right one single conference — it's shameful".

Of course there were other speakers, and some interesting and thoughtful moments. Yet the conference was a disaster and an embarrassment for the Arab world — this was the widespread conclusion by some of the most thoughtful observers.

The ICO had to end up with a number of hard-line Zionist spokesman who rambled on about direct negotiations with Israel, the terrible PLO charter, and the virtues of Camp David. The conference was also manipulated by outsiders so that all persons directly associated with the PLO were purposefully excluded from official involvement.



Habib Chetli: PLO is legitimate representative of Palestinians

Opening the conference ICO secretary-general Mr. Habib Chetli declared that through the Palestine Liberation Organization, which is the sole legitimate representative, the Palestinian people have given proof of their capacity for dialogue. PLO exclusion and subsequent embarrassment were brought about by the conference organizers, apparently unknown to the ICO, he added.

In the final days preceding the conference, the exclusion of the PLO became a matter of great concern to a few of the Arabs involved in the meeting. Anxious phone calls went out in an attempt to round-up a few Palestinians other than the American academic ones who had been invited all along. Though not officially involved in the programme or speakers, at the last minute, Messrs Halem Hussein from the PLO office at the UN in New York and Hassan Rahman, Director of the PLO Information Centre in Washington, attended the conference as observers. Expelled West Bank Mayors Milhem and Qawasni also attended — the conference organizers allowing them, reluctantly, to play a somewhat greater role because they were not "officially" part of the PLO.

The conference organizers

Mr. Hamdi Salah, an Egyptian foreign ministry official, and Dr. Dimiriy Simes were the behind-the-scenes organizers of the conference. They are the two persons most responsible for all that went wrong before and during the gathering. Samir Parsoun, a Palestinian professor of sociology at American University, was on the sponsoring committee, but he was negligently unaware of much that was being done and only stepped in in the final days. American University was the sponsoring body after other institutions more directly involved in foreign policy questions refused to lend their sponsorship.

The original decision to exclude official PLO representatives was taken in order to

attract high-level American participation including persons connected with the Reagan Administration. It was decided that the PLO was involved such persons would not attend. Dimiriy Simes, in fact, made this a condition of his own involvement. The decision to exclude the PLO only added to the new Zionist spokesmen who the organizers had invited — foremost among them Dr. Joseph Joffe and Rabbi Arthur Schneier.

Both choices were of course, outrageous, but the Arab organizers were so confused and so desperate for participants that they accepted whatever they could get. "I was amazed whom I was sitting next to," said Rashid Khalidi, a well thought young Palestinian academic, when he found himself on a panel with Dr. Joe Joffe.

The bitter exchange that took place between Mr. Hassan Rahman and Rabbi Schneier was a telling commentary on the entire conference. Rabbi Schneier had made a plea for inclusion of representatives of Israel in such a conference so that "all parties to the conflict could sit together and better understand each other. A participant asked whether with that reasoning Rabbi Schneier would also favour participation of the PLO in the conference. To this he replied no.

"The charter of the PLO is the ideological and political response to the charter of the Zionist movement," Rahman insisted. "Unless there is a radical change in thinking of the Zionist movement there will be no change in Palestinian thinking," he stated. Evasive as always, Schneier responded that at Camp David the Israeli government had agreed to accept the "legitimate rights of the Palestinian people".

But Rahman was unsatisfied, and as the session chairman, Abdul Aziz Said from American University, tried to move on to other questioners, Rahman persisted and began arguing with the chairman. It was most undignified performance on the part of the PLO representative — though not worse than the previous day when Hassan Hussein also made embarrassing and totally insubstantial interjections from the audience. As it turned out, it might have been better for the Palestinian cause if the PLO representatives had totally stayed away.

Originally said to be a "conference of the search for peace in the Middle East" and an "Arab-American dialogue", the conference proved to be a "total fiasco", a great embarrassment and a disaster, to quote from the observations of some of the more critical observers.

Once again the Arab world has provided its way out of its political league in Washington. The ICO has discredited itself by throwing time and money away and in the end putting on an outrageously embarrassing affair. Furthermore, the very concept of holding a serious, forward-looking peace-oriented gathering of American Jews, and Arabs has been dealt a great blow. The ultimate victims of course — Palestinian rights, Arab credibility and honour, and ultimately, peace itself.

CIA embarks upon false information campaign

AMMAN (Star) — A large-scale misinformation campaign on the current rift in the ranks of the PLO movement of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was trumpeted by CIA-associated newspapers based in the Middle East region or which deal with Middle Eastern events, according to Israel & Palestine Political Report (I & P) issue of September 1983.

The report said the campaign involved the purchase of an English-language weekly based in Cyprus by the Moon sect on behalf of the CIA. This paper, according to the Paris-based publication, has disseminated false information on a demand — by the 18-member reconciliation committee trying to resolve the dispute within the PLO ranks — that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat steps down as leader of the PLO. The Jerusalem Star, in a front-page story of 15 September published denials by members of the committee of such a report, which was published the previous week by the Middle East Times in Cyprus.

I & P report also said that the CIA campaign of misinformation "caused even such a respectable and usually accurate publication as the London-based Middle East International to print, on 17 September, the distorted bit of information."

United States a front runner in arms sales

By Clarence Da Gama Pinto

THE UNITED States continue to hold its place as the world's principal arms supplier. This has been confirmed in a Congressional Research Study (CRS) on trends in conventional arms transfers to the Third World. In 1982 the US research a record high (US \$ 15.3-billion) in arms transfer agreements with the Third World. The Soviet Union came second with US \$ 10.2-billion while the French ranked third at nearly US \$ 7.7-billion.

Prospects are bleak for a decrease in this transfer of arms, which during the past eight years has totalled US \$ 236.8-billion, because the Reagan administration is convinced that a vigorous arms transfer policy generates influence in recipient Third World countries. President Reagan has reversed the policies of the Carter administration, which turned down US \$ 1-billion in arms requests from more than 60 nations.

Washington officials assert that Carter's policies endangered the US position as the world's pre-eminent arms supplier and that the Soviet Union has benefited in arms sales and influence from the US conventional arms restraint policy in 1977-80.

Under Secretary of State for Security Assistance James Buckley testified before Congress in 1981 that Soviet arms deliveries to the Third World overtook those of the US by 20 per cent from 1977-80. But CRS figures for this period reveal that Soviet deliveries of arms exceeded those of the US by only 14 per cent (US\$ 26.9-billion vs US\$ 23.6-billion). In that same period, US arms agreement with the Third World actually surpassed those of the Soviet Union by US \$ 3.7-billion, totalling US \$ 39.9-billion.

The latest CRS study for 1982 not only puts the US in the lead, but the US \$ 29.2-billion total of the US, French, British, Italian and other West European countries more than doubles the US \$ 13.9-billion total of the Soviet Bloc and communist nations. And under President Mitterrand, France has continued its policy of hard sell to the Third World with conspicuous success.

The Reagan administration's exaggerated perception of the level of Soviet arms trans-

fers has led it to adopt an arms transfer policy with two objectives: to confront the Soviet Union and to assist big business in this lucrative field. In pursuit of this policy President Reagan has assiduously overturned Carter's arms transfer policy directive of May 1977.

Aside from playing down human rights considerations, Reagan has abolished the ceiling on the total dollar value of US arms transfers authorised each year. Other measures that have been scrapped include the prohibitions against:

significantly higher combat capability into a region.

The US arms sales network has always been much wider than that of the Soviet Union. According to the Washington-based Centre for Defence Information, the US government provided arms to 96 nations in the financial year 1981, and private US defence manufacturers sold weapons to 127 nations in 1980. These sales ranged from a few hundred dollars for pistols and ammunition to billions for sophisticated planes, tanks, ships and missiles. Countries as small as

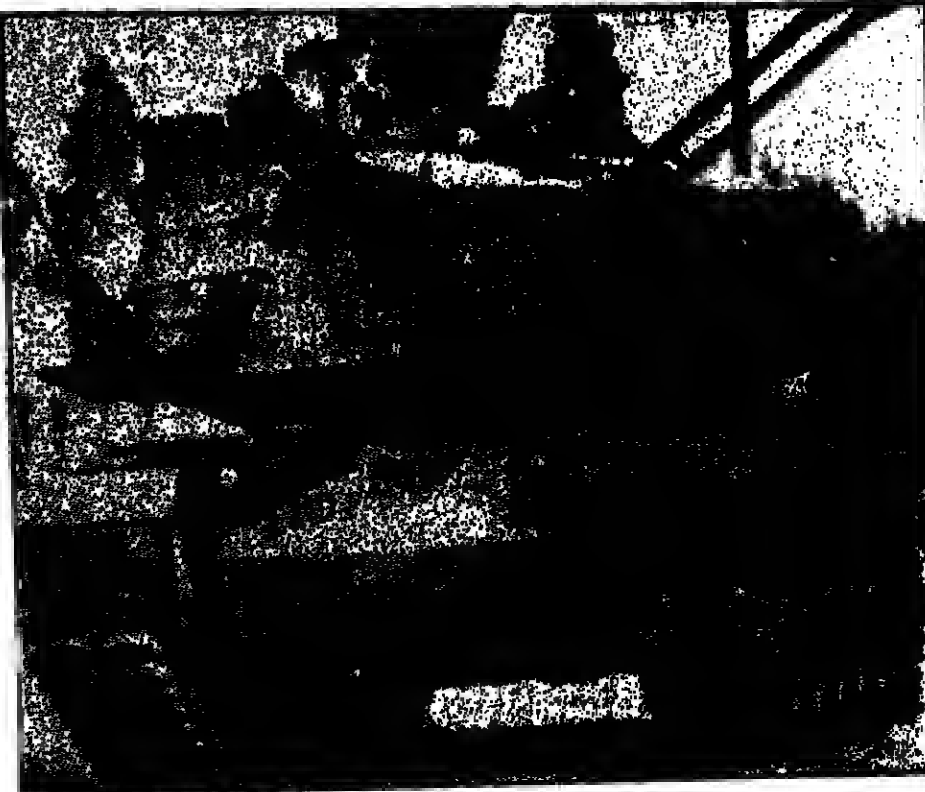
ahead with arms sales and dispatching military aid. What initially might be an arms sale could, if it suited the policies of the administration, be converted into cheap, long term loans or straightforward military aid.

President Reagan showed his determination to pursue a vigorous arms transfer policy during his first year in office. His arm sales proposals for congressional approval totalled US \$ 25.3-billion. Included in this figure was US \$ 13.8-billion, from selling five E-3A Awaacs aircraft, naval and army material to Saudi Arabia. Proposed sales to Pakistan included 40 F-16 fighter aircraft, 179 howitzers, 100 M-49 tanks and 10 AH-15 helicopters which totalled US \$ 1.5-billion. In the same package, Reagan proposed arms sales to Australia, South Korea, the United Arab Emirates, Spain, Venezuela, Norway, Japan and Austria.

The Centre for Defence Information analysis of the 1983 budget proposals reveals the top seven recipients of US military aid as Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Spain, Greece, Pakistan and South Korea. South West Asia — which includes the Middle East region — will receive 75 per cent of 1983 US military aid. Only 14 per cent goes to Europe, 7 per cent to East Asia, 2 per cent to Latin America and one per cent to Africa. The 1983 US military aid proposals include government-guaranteed military loans to 31 nations and a Caribbean regional programme.

The Centre for Defence Information analysis of the 1983 budget proposals reveals in the same package, Reagan proposed arms sales to Australia, South Korea, the United Arab Emirates, Spain, Venezuela, Norway, Japan and Austria.

According to the 1983 yearbook of World Armaments and Disarmament, published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri), the Reagan administration interprets conflict in Third World countries from a primarily East-West perspective. Sipri also notes the growing US support for repressive regimes in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras: "During 1982 there were deliveries of counter-insurgency jet aircraft, helicopters, munitions and spare parts to these countries and aid in the form of military advisers, training and joint manoeuvres has risen dramatically from a level of almost zero during the Carter period."



A modified version attracts customers

- a) Developing a weapons system solely for export;
- b) Making foreign sales prior to operational deployment with US forces;
- c) The introduction of newly developed advanced weapon system which could create

Brunei, Nauru, Surundi, and Fiji have received US arms.

In any discussion of US weapons exports, a distinction is made between military cash sales and military aid. Reagan has been able to use several options for pressing

The Third World grapple with economic crisis

By Charles William Maynes

WASHINGTON — The world is on the verge of human catastrophe and political disaster. While attention is riveted on whether the debt crisis in the Third World will weaken or seriously harm the banking structure in the West, developing countries are being put through an economic winter that is undelivered the achievements of several decades.

Interestingly, the economic strains that Third World governments experience are the proving too great for political structures. We seem to be entering a period like the 1930s, when economic distress triggered revolutions from Vietnam to Nicaragua. If the economic crisis is not solved we face political upheavals that can pose grave dangers.

Perhaps we no longer fear the nexus between economic crisis and political change because in recent years the industrialized North has shown remarkable political stability in the face of economic adversity. Governments have fallen in every major industrialized democracy in the last few years, but unlike the 1930s, there has been no major challenge to the system itself.

This stability, however, may be a tribute to the safety net of the welfare state that even developed countries are finding very expensive to maintain. Most developing countries have no such net. They are faced with the anger of disadvantaged populations.

There is good reason why these populations should be angry. In the last 30 years, local governments and donors and international organizations have uprooted traditional ways of life and urged Third-World people to pursue the path of "economic progress". Pushed by economic conditions from the farms and villages and lured into the cities as development economists emphasized industrialization, over agriculture, these people

turned cities like Jakarta, Mexico City and Lagos into wretched megacities.

In only 30 years, for example, the population of the Lagos area has risen from 100,000 to 1.5 million, and by some estimates to 3 million. It is all the pain and misery that people in the West experienced in more than 100 years of movement from country to city were compressed into three decades.

After years of effort, Third World people were beginning to make the adjustment from one way of life to the other, only to be told now that mistakes were made, the future is no longer bright and they should return to a way of life they have abandoned. But the agricultural skills have been lost; the land has been taken; the family unit is no longer organized to sustain the previous existence.

Although the modest recovery in the developed North will have some positive effect on the developing countries' export markets, overall the situation looks bleak. Recalculating from commodity exports have dropped perhaps 25 per cent in the last two years; and even with an upturn in North America, Europe and Japan, the outlook for many commodities is not bright. Aid is not growing to compensate for that.

Whole continents have seen their hopes for the future disappear. According to the World Bank's 1981 report on Africa, the net flow of outside aid will have to double by 1990 if average per capita incomes are to stop eroding and start to rise again significantly. But if the established patterns continue, Africa's overall per capita growth rate will be zero or negative, and there are alarming possibilities for even steeper downward spirals in some countries as populations continue to grow.

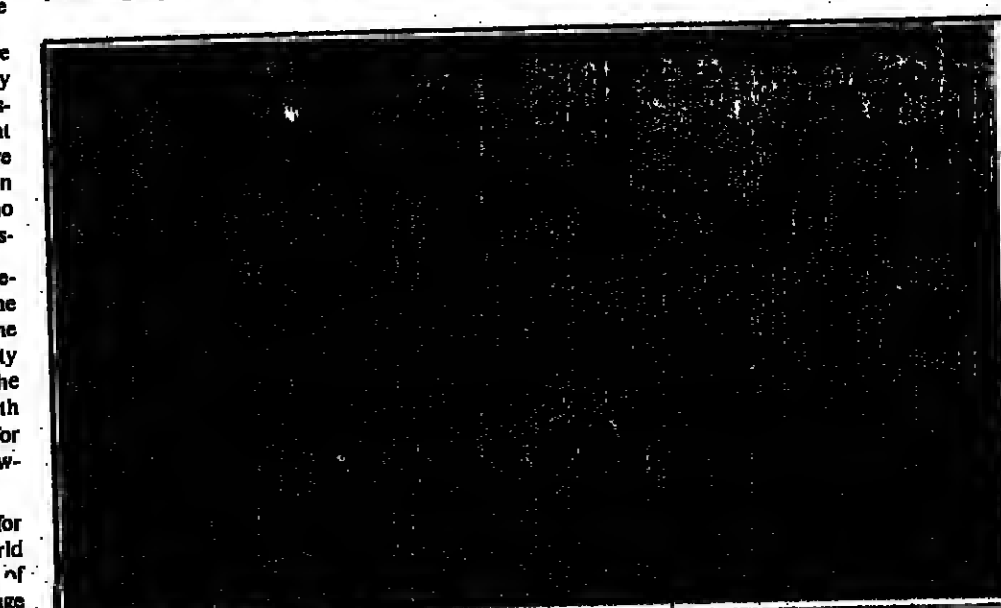
To maintain their growth, developing countries need a regular flow of commercial loans and government grants from abroad. Yet, according to Morgan Guaranty, if the 20-per cent increase in

net new bank lending to Third World countries that occurred in 1981 did not take place in subsequent years, the developing countries would lose about \$50 billion in investment funds from abroad.

The consequence would be a drop of three percentage points in their real growth rate.

government spending, even though Chile's unemployment rate has risen from 4 to 26 per cent in two years.

It is no coincidence that there have been large street demonstrations in the country in recent weeks. The military governments in Santiago and Buenos Aires are in difficulty, with pressure for



Demonstrations — a routine affair in crisis

Growth in Latin American countries perhaps would decline by more than 5 per cent. That is only a prediction, but, regrettably, reality seems to be supporting it. In the first quarter of 1983, private bank lending to the developing countries dropped to almost nothing.

In Chile, the IMF demands a 50-per cent cut in

political change coming even from their supporters. "Cuts in public spending" is a euphemism for saying that health, education and welfare budgets are being slashed. (Countries everywhere are reluctant to cut defence budgets.)

The Washington Post

THE JERUSALEM STAR 9



Aridor: Economic mismanagement



Shamir — will his government survive?

Shamir's government faces economic crisis

By Star Staff Writer and Agencies

AMMAN — Nearly one million Israelis went on strike for two hours Sunday in protest of the government's economic policies which threaten to increase the people's monthly living expenses by 10 per cent on the average.

It will be recalled that the new Israeli government, headed by Mr. Yitzhak Shamir, devaluated the Israeli shekel by 23 per cent last week following two weeks of economic upheavals. The Finance Minister, Mr. Yoram Aridor, resigned over charges of economic mismanagement. Perhaps, what broke the camel's back was his decision to link the Israeli shekel to the American dollar.

The strike organized by the Histadrut Labour Union, was reported to have been peaceful and virtually bloodless. It involved government officials, municipal officials, the state media and public companies. The national strike list put a tap recording on its telephone switchboard saying "We are on a national strike. Please call back after 1 p.m."

In the port city of Ashdod, the strike went on all day. The state manpower office said it would dock the salaries of all those employees who joined the strike. But

the biggest test is still to come, when the stock exchange re-opens. It has been closed for 10 days to head off a collapse of bank stocks, the most powerful force on the market.

The position of Shamir's new government formed less than three weeks ago seems shaky amid threats by the opposition Labour Party to table a motion of no confidence in the Knesset (Parliament).

Elsewhere in the country, there has been a mounting campaign of violence by religious fanatics. In one incident, the mayor of Jerusalem Mr. Teddy Kollek was attacked by ultra-orthodox Jewish extremists Sunday with sticks and bottles. The 72-year-old mayor suffered minor bruises. The religious fanatics claim that modern Israel is a sacrifice against their messianic vision of a Jewish state. They also oppose Kollek's moves to provide secular services like sports facilities in the holy city.

On the military front the Israeli army fired into a group of Arabs injuring several of them in the South Lebanon town of Nabatieh during a religious festival earlier in the week. The Israelis said they returned fire when an army patrol was allegedly attacked and passed near a procession of Shiite Muslims.

The Jerusalem Star

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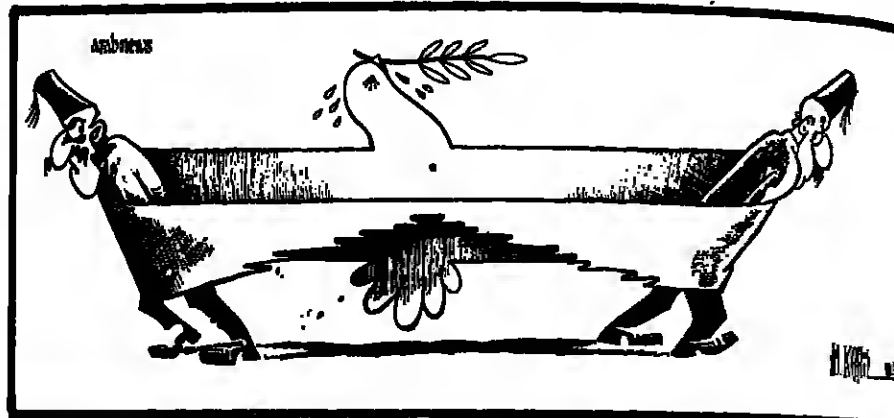
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Israel in a trap

ISRAEL'S FINANCIAL crisis and the concomitant uncertainty of the first few days of the Shmittah government have been widely shown to be linked with continued vast expenditure in the occupied West Bank. That spending, and so much of the prodigious consumerism of Israeli society, is made possible by the great amount of outside revenue that constantly flows into the country's coffers. Without a real productive base on which to build its economy to such heights, Israel is simply suffocating under a pile of money that loses its value almost as fast as it can be printed. This will remain true no matter how much financial support is received.

So much is well known. Ex-Finance Minister Aridor tacitly admitted it when he made his ill-fated and unprecedented suggestion to throw Israel upon the mercy of the Almighty Dollar. But nobody in Israel seems to have much of an idea of how to escape the trap, given the seeming determination of both government and populace to continue on their ill-considered course. Inflation holds steady at an annual 130 per cent, and plans to spend \$1.5 billion in the West Bank settlement scheme over the next few years also seem fixed.

It is not our role, nor do we wish, to advise the Israeli government on a way out of the present crisis. But hopes that the problems will mount, and spell an end to the Likud's unbroken six-year rule — causing changes for the better across the board of Israeli policy — may be illusory. For, first of all, the Arabs must admit to themselves that no matter what happens, the West, and the United States in particular, will never let the Israeli economy collapse. How extensive an intervention that would require, or what form it might take, are by no means clear. But Israel's favoured position as a spoiled child of the West will remain unassailable for the foreseeable future, as our bitter experience has taught us. That certainty is itself a central factor in Israel's irresponsible activity.

Secondly, an Israeli economy in collapse would not necessarily be desirable for anybody. If it changes the long-term military picture so as to make it finally possible for the Arabs to seek a real peace, then yes, perhaps in the end it might turn out to be a good thing. But before that end could be achieved, great suffering would be inevitable. After the 16-year growth of economic interdependence between Israel and the Arab lands it occupies, that suffering would be sure to devolve upon the heads of the Arab peoples — Israel's "second-class citizens" — first and foremost.

Finally, as the cases of Brazil and Mexico show, massive default on foreign debt by any country threatens to do more harm to the creditors, and the whole world, than to the borrowers. With the way the global banking system has become interconnected of late, we would do well to think twice before reacting that what's bad for Israel is necessarily good for us. The present situation, like most difficult situations, requires a more thoughtful attitude than that.

Gulf's time bomb

IRAN'S LATEST warnings that it will close the Strait of Hormuz if Iraq uses the newly-supplied French Super Etendard fighter jets against Iranian oil ports bring the three-year-old Gulf war to a dangerous crossroad. Although Iraq has not yet used the super jets — it is still not certain if the jets were delivered — Iranian warnings have already created tension in the Western world, especially in the United States, which promised to interfere militarily if the straits were closed.

At this sensitive stage of the Gulf war, the Arab Gulf states and all other parties who are directly or indirectly affected by the outcome of the escalation of reprisals in the region are advised to resurrect all attempts to bring a ceasefire on the battlefield and settle all disputes at the negotiation table.

It will not be in anyone's interest to see America's naval powers display their strength at the gates of the Gulf and thus lure more superpower presence in this sensitive region. It will be anybody's guess how the Iranians and the Soviets will react to such an event.

The Iranian leaders have become so unpredictable in their behaviour that it is likely that they might carry out their threats. If the strait were closed, then this forgotten little war of the Gulf could present the world with a crisis to remember.

The Palestine conference

To the editor:

It has been reported in the news that it was only after pressure had been brought to bear by Britain and Ireland on Germany and other EEC members that the latter had agreed to send observers to the Conference on the Question of Palestine held recently in Geneva. Now the question to be addressed to EEC members and in particular to West Germany whose leaders including Chancellor Kohl have declared during the latter's visit to Jordan that they recognise the Palestinian people's right to self-determination; why Germany and other EEC members with the exception of Greece did not participate in that conference but attended simply as observers. Why do not they practice what they preach?

I think it is high time that EEC members and particularly West Germany should rid themselves once and for all of the so-called "Guilty Complex" resulting from the exaggerated so-called Jewish holocaust during World War II (refer to the book titled "The Hoax of the Twentieth Century" by Professor Butz). And are the present generations of Europe and particularly of Germany responsible for Jewish persecution which occurred more than forty years ago. What about the current persecution, detention and torture of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and what about Sabra and Shatila massacres which were perpetrated by the Phalangists with the knowledge of and in connivance with responsible Israeli leaders.

Germany and EEC members should act in a fairer and even-handed manner towards the Palestinians.

J.J.
Amman - Jordan

The Arabs and the West

To the editor:

Whoever reads the article written by Leila G. Deeb in the October 6-12 issue of The Jerusalem Star on the Ajlunis gets the impression that the Arabs have reached an advance stage in social, cultural, and political maturity.

That the Arabs have bypassed the limits of socio-political bankruptcy is true beyond a shadow of doubt. I wonder what the impression of the people of the United States will be when they hear that the flare-up of a tribal war between different factions in Lebanon for the usurpation of power by force of arms resulted in a bloody and destructive war the outcome of which is unpredictable. I wonder what the impression of the people of America will be when they hear that the Arab states are facing a cash hemorrhage. The fault is, of course, in the stars of the imperialist nations.

The Arabs will never gain the respect and admiration of the civilized people in general and the American people in particular unless and until they unite their ranks, place national interests above petty self interests and ambitions, and stand in the face of the whole wide world as one nation and one man.

George N. Sali
Amman - Jordan

Ask Egypt back

To the editor:

Your editorial "Egypt's role in the future" (6 October) touches an active nerve and calls for serious considerations. The Arab stance from the Camp David accords and the peace treaty was purely emotional — typical of the Arabs — and not based on strategic thinking. That is why our justifications are no longer valid especially, as your editorial pointed out, when Egypt will always play a pivotal role in uniting the Arab world and putting an end to Israel's plots.

What I felt your editorial failed to say is that the Arabs should not debate the idea of allowing the return of Egypt to Arab fold any longer, but admit that isolating Egypt was a grave mistake and that an end should be put to her isolation. What more proofs do we need to convince us that the boycotts and punishment, which are directed to Egypt, benefitted Israel directly. Let's not be bashful. Ask Egypt back! Rashed M. Mawad
Zarqa, Jordan

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Questions of civilization

Greetings to Jerusalem!

CURRENTLY convened at the Jordan University is the Fourth International Conference on the history of Bilad Al-Sham. The conferees, an impressive group of international scholars, focused their research on topics ranging from the early Byzantine period to the later stages of the Umayyad Caliphate. The dialogue of the guest scholars and their researches were not concerned with modern day challenges to Arab civilization, nor were they concerned with the proximity of the Israeli occupying forces just across the Jordan river. Theirs was a beautifully dispassionate example of superb scholarship in dialogue with itself of issues seemingly irrelevant to the present.

Listening to them one is left with the impression, certainly confirmed by historical evidence, that the Middle East has always been a threatened area; that each and every successive civilization it produced, was challenged from the moment of its inception. Perhaps the man of the contemporary Middle East carries with him, somewhere in his subconscious, the fears and the hopes, the failures and the accomplishments of these earlier civilizations. Certainly in his subconscious the modern Arab, one important scion of Middle Eastern civilizations, carries the awareness of these past glories. To the unfortunately aware Arab, as the aware always suffer most, the contrast between what was and what is, is a painful reminder of his modern inadequacy.

Again, listening to these scholars debating points raised by the sixth century Byzantine historian, Procopius, or the great Arab biographers Al Tabari or Al-Maqrizi, or different eras, one wonders about the response of civilizations to the challenges they face.

Very few contemporary Arabs debate the statement that the modern threat posed by Israel is indeed an historical one; that the survival of Arab-Muslim civilization is predicated upon the speedy containment and eventual digestion of the modern Israelis. The challenge is that of two diametrically opposed civilizations competing for the same space. It is not simply a question of geographical, geographical dimensions, but the attempt of an aggressive ideology, highly technologically advanced, especially in the military field, definitely not adverse to the ruthless use of any method or weapon, to reach its goal, regardless of the price to making; which, filled with anger at its historical, and even contemporary mal-treatment has revived ancient myths and hatreds, albeit directed against the wrong victims. It is difficult indeed to argue sensibly with a man whose skin is still charred from the ovens of Auschwitz or Dachau.

Itzhak Yezernitsky, alias Mr. Yitzhak Shamir, present Prime Minister of Israel, who with British complicity illegally immigrated into Palestine in 1935, is such a person. He is following closely in the footsteps of Begin, and Jabotinsky and his sword like that of Joshua will certainly continue to strike mercilessly as it has done in the past. He views not himself as an ordinary man of mortal proportions, but as a divine instrument helping in the unfolding of a new era, a new civilization. That such an unfolding will leave much destruction, ashes and pain in its wake is of little consequence to him and his comrades in terror.

To simply argue our case, and to plead that our Arab civilization is, in fact, superior, or at least equal, is of no use. Pointing out that we are only technologically backward, that otherwise our poetry, literature, architecture, religion, value system, mercy towards others, respect for the elders and other manifestations of civilization and normal human behaviour, are good, is again of little consequence.

To survive, we must quickly learn to use the same tools and adhere to the same rules as our adversary, however repugnant this notion may seem to some of us. To survive in the twentieth century we have to acquire, not simply the technology but the value system, or at least some of it, that underlies that technology. The time has come for us to learn that efficiency above all else, is the yardstick by which survival will be accomplished. Perhaps we have lived too much in the past and its accomplishments to realise what is happening to us now. Perhaps our civilization turned away too much from creativity to form, from the substance of life, its content and spirit, to ritual and circumstance. The shock of Israel and its ruthless efficiency has rendered us in limbo between reason and unreason far longer than it should have. Our leaders pray that they begin to realise that "order" is not orders but the organised attempt to encourage creativity through consultation and participation. That is the only way a civilization can survive.

opinion

An interlude for science

IT IS wholesome in a way to give oneself a little respite and relief from politics. In the Middle East, which takes into account the Arab world in particular, politics is still a mess of misty complexities which, as is the case with other aspects of life, is activated by whirls of passion and of floaty vision, except for the elite very few. In brief, the Arab world is still lagging far behind the scientific approach to things.

Yes, it is 'the scientific approach', which Vol. 3, No 8 of Arrabita Bulletin/August, 1983, published by the Association of Jordanian Physicists, has reminded me of. So much instructively have I been influenced by my reading of this lost issue of the magazine that I have decided to dedicate to-day's article to the idea and to the effect that this association is trying very hard and very bravely to promulgate.

Unquestionably, there is a need for a scientific "revolution" rather than a scientific veneer. It is not enough for the Arab world to import the means and tools of technology and science for the purpose of development and progress. What is really needed, as Arrabita Bulletin's editorial puts it, is "to substantiate rational visions of the process of social development."

It is not enough to hold talks and seminars about science and technology, which is, however, not bad on its own. What is to do something towards the formation of a local group worthy of being described as scientifically-oriented within a framework of an established institution that would organize the efforts of that group and would get it integrated with both the Arab and international scientific groupings.

It is not enough to count on the increasingly growing output of university science post-graduates, professors and Ph.Ds. It is as if by misplacing quality by quantity, the Arab university staff seem to be living in Ivory towers or, even in caves where science sunshine has not been able to penetrate the foggy and blurred atmosphere of non-scientific shadows. Or more briefly, "the move of academic titles" bearers, the farther backward we go.

It is not enough to cram our students' heads with scientific formulas, terminologies, theories and what not, the gist and the practicality of which are bound to be lost on account of the lack of precision, pointedness and clarity of the medium of scientific expression, be it English or Arabic. "It is a distorted linguistic duality," says the editorial, "that prevails supreme in the Arab world. Thus as long as this distorted English language is present in the street, factory,

By Henry Matar

administration and education (at all its various levels)... Arab thought must remain paralyzed." On the other hand, the Arabic language we use for scientific purposes, apart from a few serious efforts scattered here and there, is still incapable of and unqualified for scientific transfer.

And finally, it is not enough to use scientific clichés and slogans such as those learned, recited, and applied by a poor, incompetent and destructive infrastructure, divided, as it were, by a schizophrenic split between tradition and modernity. What is needed is to restudy tradition in a different and new way, whereby to discover therein the pure and unmix scientific approach which might lead us to initiate a new scientific revolution as our ancestors did in the past.

Hence the main channels through which the required scientific revolution — the pre-requisite for the scientific approach — can be made to happen are most probably the following: First, the "bi-migration" as Arrabita puts it, "to the past tradition and to the modern age". In other words, we should ask ourselves how our traditional culture might be utilized and exploited to build up a modern Arab culture that would be congenial to the essence of contemporary civilization. Having accomplished this, the new scientific mind must get burned and moulded by the fire of modern European culture, heart and soul, so that you would know the devil inside-out and so that you

develop a "scientific consciousness" which would believe in the scientific approach and methodology, to the expulsion of any other by-effect.

Second, to keep your Arab entity and to stop Arab culture carceeing into ruin, as it is doing now, there must arise a parallel revolutionary manipulation of the Arab language for the purposes of Arabizing scientific content. It is to develop the Arabic language into a "living and pulsating organism", as Dr. Hisham Ghassib, a member of the Association of Physicists puts it in an article of his in Arrabita. If such organism can be created (and fortunately enough it is on the way of being nursed at present through the co-efforts of the Jordan's Arab Academy, Royal Scientific Society and the University of Jordan Science Faculty), it would be constantly susceptible of any scientific stimulus or effect, and it would be ready to incorporate such a stimulus or effect, and reproduce it alive, complete and ready for use by the rising generations.

Third and last, once the spirit and the linguistic vehicle of science have been activated, the very important task of popularizing science will be possible. It is vital that the scientific revolution should reach this concrete result. Without the permeating and flooding popularization of science, the Arab masses would be left weltering in the mire of the Middle Dark Ages of backwardness and inaptitude for real development in the modern sense of the word.

To clinch up the theory with practice, Arrabita Bulletin of the Association of Jordanian Physicists has managed to give a practical application to all the components of the scientific approach and methodology. It has deliberately assigned its English section to act as the mouthpiece of the Petra School of Physics, an Institute jointly subscribed to by the Jordanian and Yarmouk universities and by the International Centre of Theoretical Physics (directed by Prof. Abdusalam, the world-celebrated physics scholar from Pakistan), thus establishing a link between the Arab and Western efforts.

Death of a dream

JORDAN'S ONLY cycling club is about to shut its doors permanently because of financial difficulties. In its short history the club, which was born as a result of the strenuous efforts of its founder Jihad Saqr, has managed not only to popularize the sport in Jordan, but also has created a team that would be able to compete in international events.

What makes me sad is not the sudden demise of the cycling sport in Jordan, because there might still be a chance for it to survive despite the imminent closing down of the Tarif Club, but to see the personal efforts of a group of young Jordanians go to waste because they lacked a financial backer.

In fact this is the story of many other unique projects, whose aims were to add a new dimension to our lives. Such dreams had to face the perils of the real world, where financial matters and support from enthusiasts have to surpass the moral rhetoric in order to reach firm grounds.

Jihad had to go through a lot in order to see the club come to life. His best friend and partner died in a tragic accident and he had to continue by himself to fulfill the dream. Even now when the club has many members, it still does not have enough bicycles, spareparts or outfits to offer to its members. But this is not

why the club is closing its doors. They simply can't pay their rent for this month.

There are no sponsors who are willing to support the Tarif Club. Many prefer to give their advertising money to a football team or direct to newspapers. Our official and semi-official establishments are making excuses so as not to worry themselves with a minor problem such as this one.

In its short history, the Tarif Club participated in all the cycling events in Jordan. In all the races the members managed to win almost all the first, second and third prizes. Jihad is Jordan's national cycling champion for the second consecutive time. Until it began to feel the financial pressure, the Club was planning to send members with the Jordanian Olympic team to Los Angeles next year.

But life will continue with or without the Club. The principle remains that such pioneer and independent schemes which were considered the symbol of the Jordanian spirit facing challenges, are no longer reaching their goals. I am counting on one thing that, hopefully, will remain unchanged by the progress of life and that is our citizen's generosity and their willingness to aid people like Jihad and his friends. To those I say: Save the Tarif Club.

opinion

VIEWPOINT Another US 'reappraisal'

By Ya'coub Jaber

REPORTS ABOUT a US reappraisal of policies in the Middle East have been given credence by the announcement this week that Robert McFarlane will succeed William Clark as President Reagan's national security adviser. The former US envoy to the Middle East has gained first-hand experience about the region's affairs through direct contacts with key leaders in the past few months. His appointment evokes hopes that a change could be coming.

The news about the supposed reappraisal, however, can hardly be surprising. American officials would be deceiving themselves if they believe for one moment that their country's performance in the Middle East in the past few years serves its long-term interests.

To be more precise, the Reagan administration has moved from one blunder to another in its dealings with the region over the last three years. For some time, things looked favourable to the United States. Many thought that Washington's tough approach and gunboat diplomacy had given it an unchallenged position. It was thought able to shape the future of the region in a way ensuring the promotion of its strategic goals and guaranteeing Israel's military domination and freedom of action in the middle of a divided and indecisive Arab world.

A careful evaluation of the present situation can easily show that the United States is not in the same comfortable position which it enjoyed a year ago, although on the surface things may seem fine.

Before the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the United States was the dominant power in the Middle East and capable of dealing free-handedly with the region's problems. Thanks to the US-approved invasion, however, the situation now is far more complicated with signs that it may become much worse, dragging America into deeper military involvement. For despite massive efforts to bring about national reconciliation, Lebanon may never become united again.

The Lebanese strife has been deeply aggravated by the 1982 invasion and US support for one faction against the others. US Marines in Beirut are the target of a war of attrition that may eventually force the administration, under domestic pressure, to bring them home, leaving the government of President Gemayel at the mercy of its foes.

Apart from the complications in Lebanon, Washington now is watching helplessly a massive surge of Soviet influence which will ultimately give Moscow a major say in the region's affairs. Unless Washington moves quickly and decisively, the Soviets will soon be in a position to abort any American steps in Lebanon and elsewhere.

A new war in the Middle East — something which is highly probable under the present circumstances — could deal a damaging blow to the US' credibility and interests in this vitally important region. This time the Soviets may not be in a mood to allow another defeat for their Arab allies.

Could it be that Washington has decided on the reappraisal after realizing its past mistakes and the need to embark on a new, more balanced course? Does the need for the reappraisal stem from a conviction that the Middle East's problems can best be settled when dealing with them as a whole and not in separate deals?

The forthcoming US moves may answer these questions.



Middle East Editorial Opinion

THE SYRIAN-PLO rift, Lebanon and US President Reagan's recent remarks on the Palestinian problem are the dominant themes to the press this week.

A Kuwaiti newspaper, Al-Qabas, says that the dangers emanating from splitting the PLO or setting up a new organization are far greater than any dangers encountered by the Palestinians since 1948. "Attempts to find a substitute for the PLO is a threat to the good seeds planted by the Palestinian armed struggle and a betrayal of the blood of martyrs who died dreaming of the return to Palestine," writes the paper.

It goes on to say that the question is not a matter of this man or that but it is the cause of a people who suffered under great pains and offered massive sacrifices for the achievement of their national aspirations. The paper says these people should be given every possible opportunity to resume their struggle until these aspirations are realized in the near or far future.

Healing the rift

The Qatari newspaper, Al-Raya, welcomes the series of meetings held in Damascus recently by PLO officials as representing the first right step towards healing the rift. It adds that the second step requires that Palestinian leaders start a serious and democratic dialogue with a view to reaching radical solutions to two basic problems: The split within Fatah commando movement and the Syrian-PLO rift.

"When trying to solve the two problems, the Palestinian leaders must take into account the fundamental fact that Palestinian unity is an effective weapon for confronting Israel and achieving an independent Palestinian state," the Qatari paper asserts.

It also points out that PLO leaders must realize that Syrian-Palestinian relations are not merely tactical ties based on personal considerations but on historical and geographical facts as well as long-term strategic common interests.

Calling the Palestinian revolution the conscience of the Arab nation and its will for the struggle, the North Yemeni newspaper, Al-Thawra, warns that the dangers stemming from the escalation of the PLO crisis will adversely affect the whole Arab future. It appeals for collective Arab help to end the crisis and restore unity to the Palestinian ranks.

On President Reagan's remarks about the Palestinian problem, the Egyptian newspaper, Al-Gomhoriya, notes that it was the first time that an American president linked a solution to that problem with US national interests. It calls on the Arabs to unite and patch up their differences in order to achieve a solution to the Middle East conflict after the world has realized the justness of their demands.

A Qatari English-language newspaper, The Gulf Times, voices surprise at Mr. Reagan's remarks, saying that they contradict drastically with US actions in the region. The paper expressed the view that the remarks are part of President Reagan's preparations for his re-election campaign which he wishes to enter with some favourable political asset.

In another editorial the Al-Rai Al-Aam casts serious doubts about the seriousness of President Reagan, saying that US denial of the Palestinian people's rights is a premeditated decision.

The paper goes on to say that if the president's remarks were made to counter the mounting Soviet presence in the region, then he should remember that it is his country's policy which has brought in the Soviet influence.

"The Soviets would not have been invited to the area if it were not for the US adoption of Israel and its approval of the invasion of Lebanon," writes the Kuwaiti daily.

On Lebanon, the Cairo newspaper Al-Ahram, warns against attempts to violate the ceasefire, saying that many elements in Lebanon see their interests in continuing the fighting. It adds that a speedy convocation of the national reconciliation conference is the best guarantee for turning the ceasefire into a permanent peace.

A Kuwaiti newspaper, Al-Rai Al-Aam, suggests that Arab steadfastness and firmness in Lebanon are a key to the restoration of Palestinian rights while vacillation is a fatal blow to the Palestinian cause.

"A remarkable Arab achievement has been made in Lebanon and it can be developed into an effective weapon through a joint Arab effort forcing a change in the US-Israeli gambit," the paper notes.

The paper adds that in order to do so, some Arabs need to free themselves cautiously from some of their fears in their dealings with the American friend.

Patching Arab differences

In Amman, Ad-Du'atour newspaper stresses the persistent need to patch Arab differences in preparation for the forthcoming Arab summit conference in Riyadh. It warns that the Arab situation will worsen and face further deterioration if the summit was not convened as scheduled due to the failure of efforts to end Arab disputes.

The paper explains that the summit should be held in due time because several questions need to be tackled urgently. These include the Lebanese crisis, the PLO split and the Iraq-Iran war. It says that since good intentions exist, an effective formula can be found at the summit to fulfil pan-Arab aspirations.

Pre-occupied papers

Israeli press comment is confined almost exclusively to the new Likud government and its handling of Israel's financial crisis. Al-Hamishmar writes that the economic measures adopted by the government seem to be steps backward from a sound economy.

The first outcome of the devaluation of the shekel will be a considerable increase in inflation, it says. The second is immediately to hurt the common people — workers, pensioners and poor people who have to pay from 40-50 per cent more for essential items. "Not one of the measures was directed against capitalists and wealthy elements. The working class is asked to pay the price," Al-Hamishmar complains.

Haaretz adds that with the taking on of the third Likud government, the people have been given to understand that they are encouraged to live luxuriously. "It is the duty of the government to minimize the harm done by this crisis because it will be judged according to its success in this serious test." The continuity of the government means the new one must deal with all problems it has inherited from its predecessor, Haaretz says.

On a related topic, Yediot Aharonot says one of the problems facing this government is the question of early elections. The opposition leader, Mr. Shimon Peres, has tried to avoid this issue in the past but in the light of the public's despair, he thinks that this may be the time for elections.

The Israeli paper feels that what was threatening the opposition yesterday might help it to stand on its feet today. Therefore, the opposition's activities will be the toughest problem facing Mr. Shamir. But while immediate elections might represent suicide for Shamir, refusal to hold them "does not benefit him," Yediot writes.

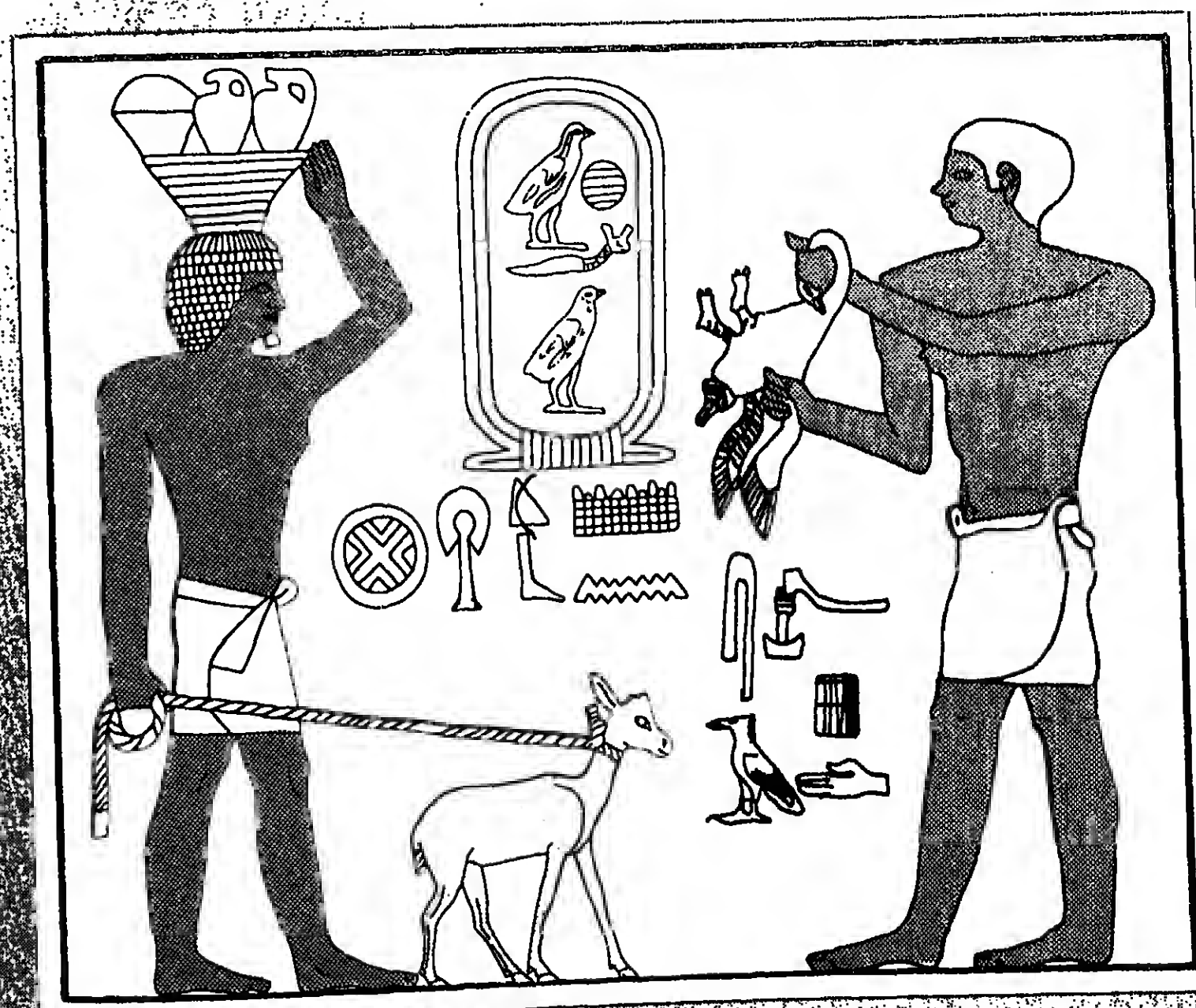
Under the headline "Weizman Does Not Help," Davar says that the proposal to restore Mr. Ezer Weizman to the cabinet to replace former Finance Minister Aridor without any change in the economic policy, is only an attempt "to tell the people some old rotten goods wrapped in a new coloured wrapper." The people of Israel need some new basics rather than new wrappers. The nomination of Mr. Weizman has undermined the militants in Herut and Hatikva who look at him as a dove in favour of creating a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, Davar says.

Another Israeli newspaper, Hatzofeh, says it is difficult to escape the impression that Mr. Aridor has deliberately chosen the road of suffering by resigning from the government. The finance minister had always felt that his position in the government was shaky, and his secret remained with him for six months, but finally surfaced on the pages of the press.

The paper says that adventurism, not the government's preference for occupation over peace, have "collided with the Israeli national interests and uncovered economic dependence. The Likud government has mortgaged the future of Israel to the United States," it writes.

Koteret Rashit adds that Mr. Aridor's resignation was expected even before he came out with his "miserable" project to link the Israeli economy to the US dollar. "Still, the resignation of its responsible reliever the government of its responsibility towards the economy, because it supported the unreasonable steps taken by Aridor and in the Likud government," Koteret Rashit says.

The dollar proposal "was in fact a definite recognition of the failure of the Israeli economy. We might think we stand on equal ground with Americans, but we start receiving our pay in dollars, but this new trend means the loss of Israeli sovereignty," Israeli paper concludes.



BARTER IS BACK

The old system of exchange is making an impressive comeback. Shortages of hard currency, heavy debt loads and trade imbalances have brought barter back in a variety of new forms and with increasing importance in international trade. Reports begin on page 3.



WorldPaper

An international publication featuring fresh perspectives from around the world on matters of global dimension.

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LETTER FROM VIENNA

'Vienna Gloriosa' lives on in fashion, food and the good life



By Arun Chacko
Associate Editor
in South Asia

Many of Western Europe's loveliest cities are looking tastier by the day. Not so Vienna.

Arguably the loveliest city of them all, it remains remarkably prosperous and trouble free, curiously insulated from the convulsions rocking its eastern and western neighbors. Inflation and unemployment are at unusually low levels, the schilling is about the only currency keeping pace with the dollar (making Austria expensive) and street crime is virtually unknown.

The glories of the great Austro-Hungarian Empire, of which Vienna was the capital, are still very much in evidence. The city is a vast museum, with almost every building a work of art. Beautifully laid public gardens, especially in and around the spectacular Hofburg Palace, heighten the effect.

The magnificent original facades of the many great eighteenth-century baroque buildings remain in all their glory, rising five and six stories high. In other cities one alone would be a major tourist attraction. In Vienna they line both sides of street after street.

Mercifully, little of the original city fell to bombs or bulldozers through the years. In fact, if one stands in the gardens in front of the Belvedere and looks down at the old city, it is exactly as Canaletto painted it 200 years ago. It was not for nothing the city was known as "Vienna Gloriosa" several centuries ago.

Today, the latest European fashions are evident on the Graben and Kärntnerstrasse. Vienna's picturesque promenades. People are extraordinarily well dressed, the women elegant and good looking.

In a sense, Vienna is merely regaining its old glory. For centuries it was a stronghold of European fashion, and only in the last 50 years has it lost that image. However, it seems only a matter of time before it wins that particular distinction back. Young, local fashion designers regularly offer spectacular new creations at their shows, which would certainly give their Parisian counterparts a run for their money.

Not so well known is Vienna's food—certainly some of the world's greatest. It is by no means restricted to cakes and chocolates, which are unparalleled, or, for that matter, the Wiener schnitzel which is believed to be an Arab import. Haute Viennese cuisine is really quite extraordinary, if a little rich, as are their celebrated warm puddings.

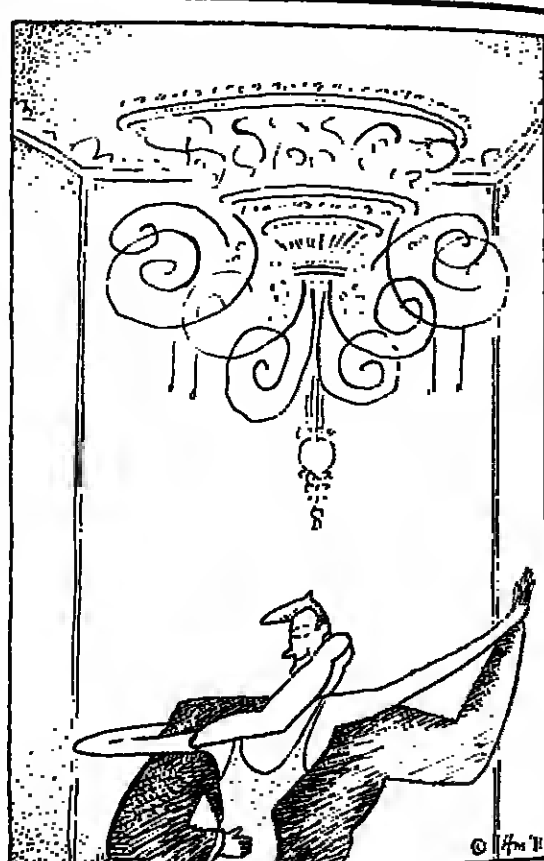
Given the tensions in neighboring countries, the peace and prosperity seems a bit unreal. But it isn't. This says something about the Austrians' general detachment and resilience, which helped them survive against all odds in an increasingly hostile environment.

The empire collapsed around World War I and Austria was never the same again. Thereafter, there was the traumatic 1938 annexation by Hitler and the post-World War II Soviet occupation. Few people today remember that the country narrowly escaped becoming part of the Eastern bloc—the Soviets remained until the mid-1950s.

The independent post-war course it so successfully steered, staying clear of both superpowers and still commanding respect and goodwill from them, is really a tribute to Austria's ability to mind its own business and get on with the job at hand. This seems to have bred a peculiar insularity and total involvement with its own traditions, which is in stark contrast to its own earlier great power role.

Recently, for instance, the country went through a fairly momentous general election, where important issues concerning its future were at stake. The election results even led to a change in government. But the Viennese and their media seemed far more concerned about the fate of the VD-struck Lippizaner horses of Vienna's famed Spanish Riding School.

And that in a sense is how the Viennese remain content and happy—by shutting out the unpleasant world outside. Anyway, they manage to have a pretty good time enjoying their beautiful country, their culture and, in the appropriate season, a hectic social life. Maybe the rest of us could learn a thing or two from their success in steering a middle course and still coming out on top.



BARTER IS BACK

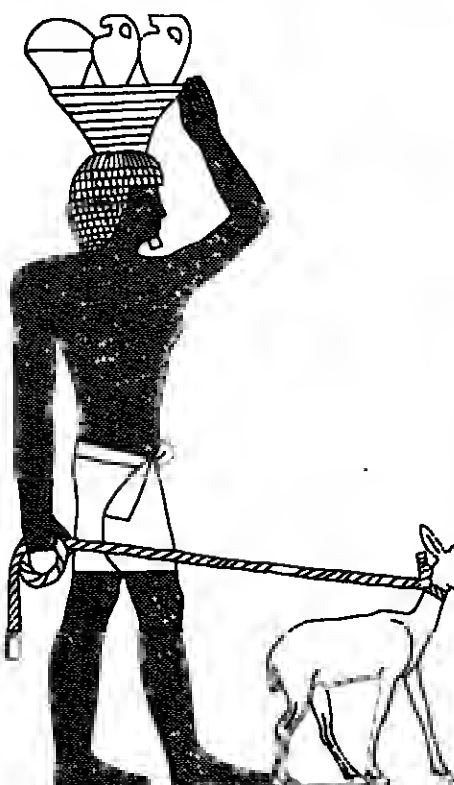
DIRECT BARTER—exchanging goods for goods—was the only form of trade for thousands of years. It began to be replaced by the use of money around 3000 B.C. when the Sumerians substituted metal coins for grain as legal tender. As trade expanded over the centuries, barter was seen to be an increasingly inefficient way of doing business. It was just too difficult to transport goods over long distances and to gauge their relative worth.

European mercantilists of the eighteenth century thought barter a barbaric form of trade. A nation's wealth, they believed, was not the goods and services it could produce, but rather the coins it had in its reserves. Even Adam Smith, whose book "The Wealth of Nations" challenged the mercantilist ideas, agreed that "no man shall be a barterer."

Despite a steady progression away from the direct exchange of goods, however, whenever the modern world economy has been disrupted, barter has been turned to as a means of doing business.

After World War I had depleted most nations' reserves of currency, barter flourished. Again, during the Great Depression of the 1930s, when people didn't trust the value of currency, barter reappeared.

After World War II, most of the developed economies, in the midst of unprecedented growth, abandoned barter. But the East European countries and the Soviet Union continued to rely on barter for trade amongst themselves and, wherever possible, for trade with Western and developing countries. This allowed them to save their foreign exchange in order to



pay for goods they could not otherwise get.
The world recession of the past few



years has stimulated a new resurgence of barter—and this time the developed economies have jumped in as well. Sweden, for example, recently reached an agreement with the American General Electric Company to provide a variety of industrial goods in return for GE's jet engines. According to some estimates, various forms of barter account for as much as 30

percent of world trade, up from only 2 percent a decade ago.

Barter today falls into two main categories—direct exchange and countertrade. Direct exchanges occur when each partner in a trade wants what the other party has. Far more prevalent on the international stage is countertrade, usually a long-term arrangement. In countertrade agreements, one party insists that foreign sellers doing business in the country either accept as payment specified goods, which often must then be resold elsewhere, or agree to purchase certain goods in the future.

This form of barter has come under heavy criticism, particularly from Western countries, as being a thinly disguised form of protectionism whereby sellers must accept goods in payment that they would not ordinarily purchase on an open market. But while there seems to be no disagreement that it is a "difficult" way to do business, both balance-of-payment difficulties and heavy debt loads indicate that countertrade will be a fact of international trade for some years to come. Just recently several major US corporations, including General Motors and Sen's Roebuck, have decided that profits can be made from becoming experts in countertrade. Like the trading houses of Europe and Japan, they have set up divisions that buy, sell and arrange deals on behalf of countries and corporations engaged in countertrade.



Reports begin on page 4



The Giant Panda needs your help to survive

Only every eighty to a hundred years the bamboo forest in China's Sichuan Province bursts into flower and then dies off. And that's bad news for the Giant Panda, which depends for its survival on huge amounts of bamboo.

But that's just one of the problems facing the Panda.

To ensure that it has a future it is vital to preserve the complex ecosystem in which it lives, to carry out research into its dietary needs and investigate possible alternatives to discover the reasons for its low reproduction rate. Not only the problem of international poachers, all these factors and many more endanger the survival of the Panda.

Recreation of the urgent need to solve these and other problems has resulted in a unique and historic partnership between WWF and the People's Republic of China.

WWF has agreed to contribute US \$1,000,000 and a total of about US \$3,000,000 needed by the Chinese Government to mount a major Panda

Conservation Programme. This includes construction of a research and conservation centre in the largest of the Panda reserves—Wolong National Reserve in Sichuan Province.

A team from WWF, led by the distinguished biologist Dr. G. Schaller, is already at work in Wolong together with top Chinese scientists under the leadership of Professor Hu Jinhua.

The Giant Panda is an endangered animal. It is also the symbol of WWF's worldwide conservation efforts to save the earth.

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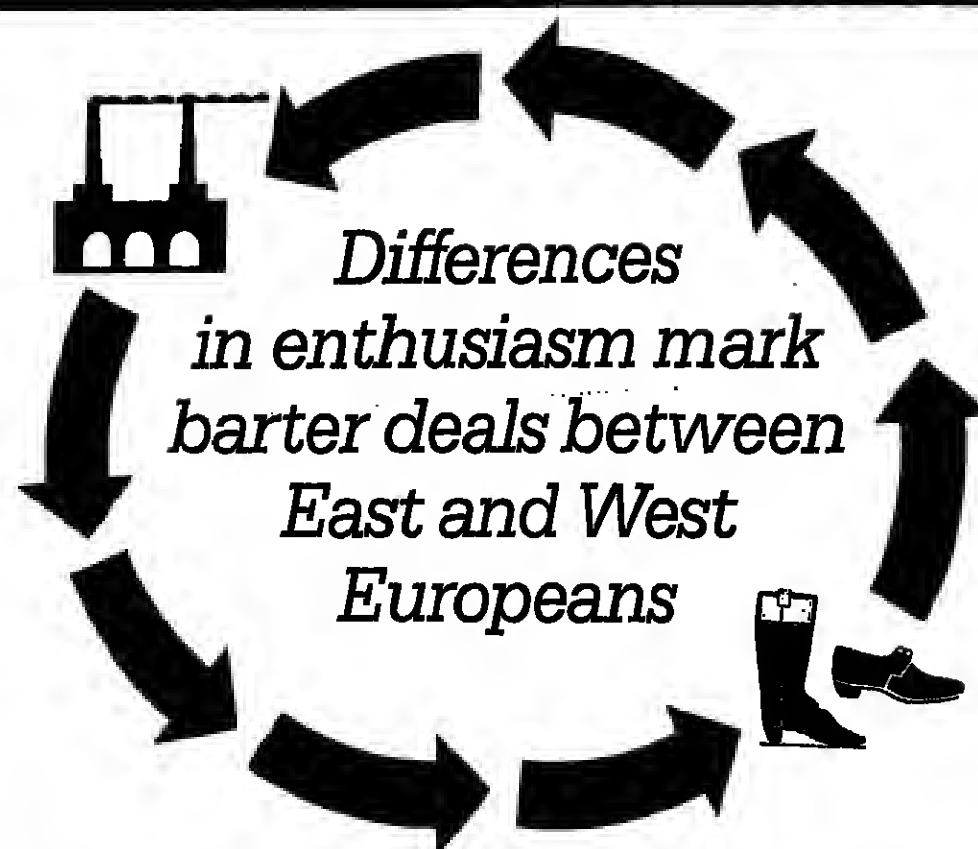
'Socialist countries are pushing hard'

By Silvia Brucan
Associate Editor in Eastern Europe

BUCHAREST—The "deal of the century" may well be the building of the Soviet gas pipeline from Siberia to Western Europe. West German, French, Italian and British companies are supplying the equipment, and part of their compensation will be not in cash but in gas deliveries when the pipeline is completed.

Barter, the ancient practice of swapping goods for goods, has taken on new importance and sophistication in the offices of import-export firms not only in Moscow but in East European capitals as well. Given their shortage of convertible currencies, the high bank interest rates and the worsening credit terms in East-West trade, barter in one of its many forms is a less burdensome way of financing than borrowing in capital markets. One indication of its importance is that more than 300 intergovernmental agreements and programs between 22 Western nations and Eastern European countries are now in force, covering 10-to-20-year periods.

An example of one of the 1500 industrial joint ventures in place is Armand Hammer's 1974 agreement with the Soviets, valued at \$20 billion. Hammer's Occidental Petroleum supplied the USSR with eight chemical plants. Moscow is fulfilling its end of the bargain by exporting back to Occidental ammonia, potassium and other chemicals annually for 20 years. This illustrates the most common barter practice where the Western part-



ner exports capital goods on credit and over a period of 10 to 20 years receives a share of the product as payment. The Western export value of such East-West projects amounted to over \$10 billion in 1980, of which \$8 billion involved Soviet enterprises.

Of the Eastern European countries, Hungary has been particularly successful in setting up another sort of non-cash exchange, the joint ownership of factories. In 1980, for example, the pharmaceutical company, Biogal, signed an agreement with the Swiss Ciba-Geigy subsidiary Zyma to produce an active

agent for one of Zyma's products. Zyma provided the machinery and equipment while Biogal contributed the land and building of the automated plant plus 18 workers and two pharmacists to operate it. Zyma retains 49 percent of the shares, Biogal 50 percent and the Medimpex foreign trade company 1 percent. Zyma is committed to buying back 50 percent of the factory's output for use in its own pharmaceutical products.

In other cases the Western partner provides industrial equipment and takes its pay over three or five years in unrelated export goods. Romania is paying part of the cost of a Canadian nuclear reactor with up to a billion dollars' worth of farm machinery, wool and clothing.

The socialist countries are pushing hard for joint ventures with Western corporations, viewing them as both the best way to acquire up-to-date technology and the most direct means of increasing their exports to the West. The benefits work both ways, however. Not only do these arrangements have an anti-cyclical stabilizing impact on the economy overall, they also allow Western companies to keep otherwise idle plants producing and hundreds of thousands of workers employed.

The success of the various forms of barter or non-cash exchange between East and West are obvious from trade figures for 1976 to 1980, a period when international trade was almost stagnant. The total trade turnover between Eastern Europe and the West went up by 67.8 percent, from 49.4 to 68.5 billion rubles (US\$95 billion). It increased in absolute figures by 2.2 billion rubles in 1981 alone.

Silvia Brucan, former Romanian ambassador to the UN, is past editor of the national newspaper Scinteia.

'The West sees it as one more impediment'

By Jacqueline Grapin
Associate Editor in Western Europe

PARIS—A West European corporation that sells a "turnkey" plant to Eastern Europe may find itself paid in thousands of pairs of shoes. It will then have to get rid of the shoes however it can and at whatever price it can.

East European countries often demand that Western companies purchase a certain proportion of socialist goods in return for sales to the socialist countries.

This long has been a way to save foreign currency as well as to obtain a captive market for East European exports.

Officially at least, the West says that such countertrading, which accounts for 15 to 20 percent of trade between the two regions, is harmful to all parties involved. The West sees it as just one more impediment that discourages private companies from operating behind the iron curtain.

East European countries, on the other hand, would like to extend barter agreements to cover all East-West transactions. Yet if barter agreements were better organized, they could be useful even to the West. Certain private companies in Switzerland and West Germany, for instance, were happy to maintain their stable trade with the East European countries when their own currencies rose so high that they could barely sell anything to Western countries. And we can assume that if the French franc should continue to be weakened, cheap imports from the East would be welcome here.

With the dollar value of goods constantly fluctuating, some degree of barter could have a stabilizing effect for both East and West.

Western countries consider much of this trade artificial, particularly when they grudgingly have to buy—and get rid of—items like unwanted shoes. According to the prevailing wisdom in the West, the production of goods that otherwise might not sell on international markets is a direct result of the inefficient bureaucratic economies of Eastern Europe—and countertrade agreements merely provide a way for the governments of those countries to postpone reorganizing their economies.

Repurchase agreements between Eastern and Western Europe—a Western supplier of heavy machinery or plants, for instance, pledges to accept as partial payment goods manufactured in the new plant once it is operating—have increased tenfold between 1979 and 1980. This system of exchange is favored by the USSR and Poland in particular, and now accounts for 7 percent of the East-West trade. It is expected to increase by half again between now and 1985. These are long-term agreements, and the quality of the products is variable.

To Western executives, this type of transaction often seems extremely arbitrary—and the demands often seem outrageous. East Germany, for example, initially may demand that more than 75 percent of the value of the contract be repaid in goods produced, and then settles for only 20 to 30 percent at the end of the negotiation. In Czechoslovakia, the initial demand is rarely more than 60 percent and the final agreement is usually between 10 and 30 percent. In the Soviet Union, few demands exceed 10 percent, and almost all the transactions are concluded below 10 percent.

Western countries would like, as a first step, a relatively constant rate of compensation, depending on the type of operation and the country, so exporters could know where they are headed and forego the inevitably protracted negotiations with East European countries. They also would like to be able to choose among a wider spectrum of products from the East, which also could help Eastern economies to adapt to the needs of world markets.

Aside from the trade itself, barter agreements offer a basis for a dialogue between East and West within the Geneva-based Economic Commission for Europe. In the end, that too may prove profitable for all parties concerned.

Jacqueline Grapin is a columnist for the French newspaper Le Monde.

Iran and Iraq switch from cash to oil

By David Toufic Mizrahi
Associate Editor in the Middle East

NEW YORK—In recent months barter has blossomed in the Middle East. Iraq and Iran, strapped for financing because of their costly and prolonged war, were forced to pursue this form of international trade in order to sidestep foreign exchange requirements. Other countries have begun to follow suit so they too can bypass the hard currency portion of payments for badly needed imported goods.

In the spring of 1982, Iran, with a sizable portion of its foreign exchange reserves depleted, aggressively began to pursue barter agreements with a half

dozen or so potential oil customers. In March, for example, it agreed to supply the Banias refinery in Syria with nine million tons of oil in exchange for one million tons of Syrian phosphates and other goods. Later in the year it began shipping 35,000 barrels of crude oil a day in exchange for Brazilian foodstuffs and industrial goods of equivalent value. It also has concluded barter agreements with Turkey, Czechoslovakia and Romania. More recently, Iraq closed a complicated delayed-payment barter arrangement with Japanese trading houses involving Iranian light oil.

Iraq, too, is sending oil to two major Japanese trading houses, Mitsubishi Cor-

poration and Marubeni Corporation, as payment for construction projects handled by Japanese consortiums. Iraq is paying with its own oil and with oil donated by Saudi Arabia (to help Iraq defray the costs of its war with Iran). Reportedly, part of its payment to Japan's Chiyoda Chemical Engineering and Construction Company for work on a refinery in Baiji and a liquefied natural gas processing plant in North Rumaila was with some one million barrels of Arabian light oil.

Iraq's closer relations with France and Egypt have led to barter arrangements also. The French government agreed last summer to allow Iraq to pay off some of

the US\$2.26 billion of its debts to Paris for arms purchases in the form of 80,000 barrels a day of oil over a 12-month period. In August, Iraq and Egypt concluded a \$35 million barter deal for the exchange of Iraqi sulphur and phosphates in return for Egyptian textiles.

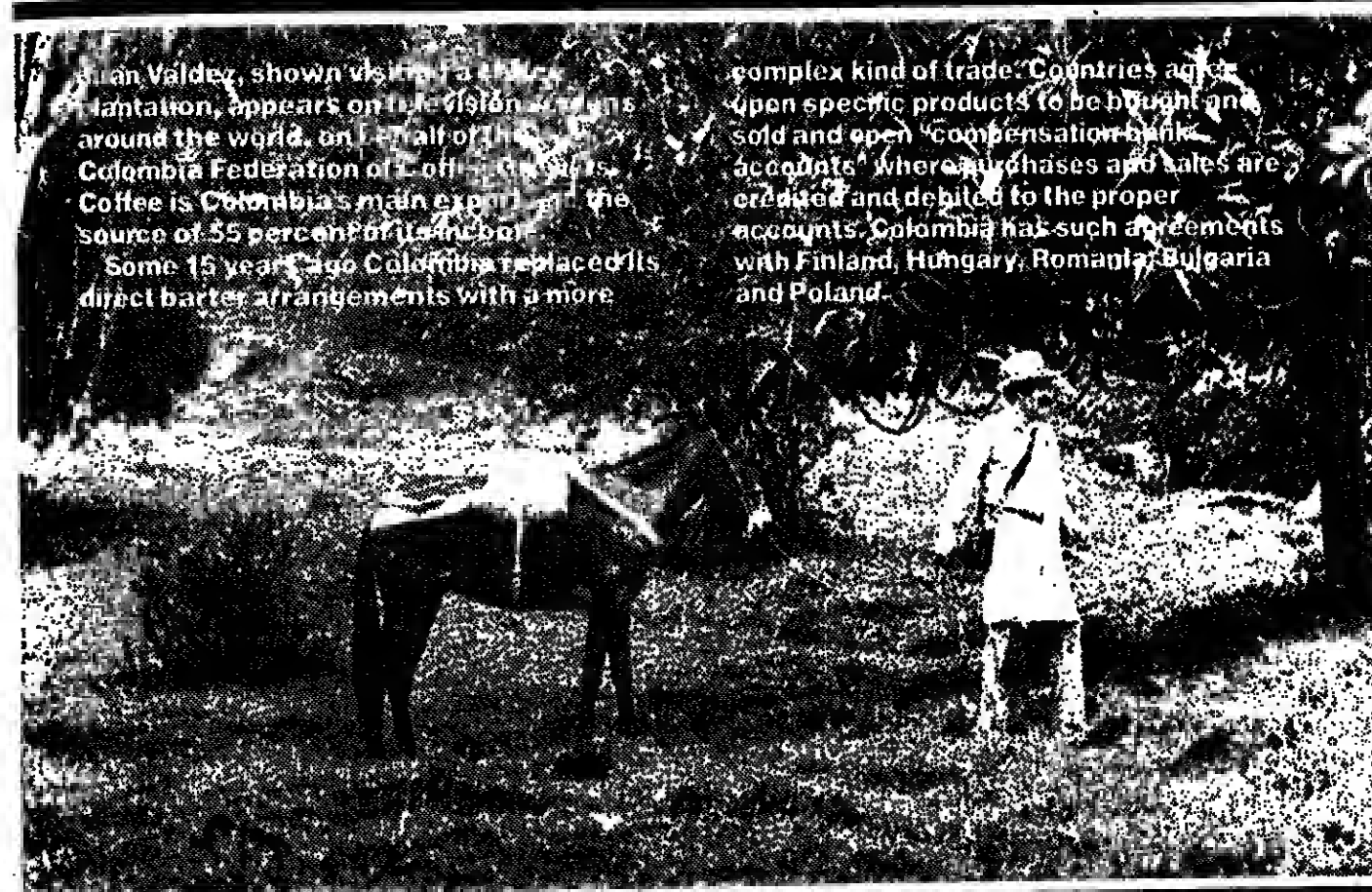
With the drop in oil revenues, other OPEC states in South America and the Middle East are likely to turn to barter deals. Already Qatar has offered 2.7 million barrels of oil (worth \$83.3 million) to Sumitomo Corporation of Japan as partial payment for work on a \$116.7 million seawater desalination plant project at Ras al-Futas.

Libya, too, is reported to have paid off some debts to Turkey and India with oil. The Libyans have even settled part of their Soviet arms purchases with crude oil, which Moscow is trying to sell on the spot market.

The development of barter arrangements has presented not only a means to circumvent foreign exchange requirements for trading, but also has expanded the list of potential trading partners within the developing world. Countries, which under traditional trading relations might have fallen deeper into debt, have the chance to acquire goods needed for their economies without worsening their balance of trade problems. Moreover, oil barter in particular allows the hard currency-poor nations of the Eastern socialist bloc and the Third World an opportunity to acquire more oil in a less costly way. At the same time it allows OPEC countries to widen the list of potential customers at a time when the world oil market is glutted.

Barter trade can survive, however, only as long as there is a shortage of hard currency combined with a worldwide oil glut. The day the price of crude shoots up and demand revives, oil sellers will again demand what they traditionally have demanded: payment in hard currency.

David Toufic Mizrahi is editor and publisher of MidEast Report, a New York-based newsletter specializing in Middle East affairs.



Two sides of countertrade

Indonesia needs to boost its exports, so...

JAKARTA—Early this year, in an effort to boost its exports, Indonesia adopted strict countertrade policies. Now, all foreign companies that win contracts here must buy back an equivalent value in non-oil and non-gas commodities, including such locally produced goods as rubber, coffee, tea, aluminum and nickel.

Japanese companies head the list of countertrade partners, with agreements totaling US\$161 million, followed by West Germany at \$152 million. Other countries involved in the countertrade system with Indonesia include the US, Romania, Singapore, Canada, Great Britain, South Korea, the Netherlands, East Germany, Sweden, France, Mexico and Italy.

At first, foreign companies balked at accepting the drastic countertrade terms—but then they got smart and started using delaying tactics. They tell the government that before fulfilling their end of the bargain they need more time to study the international commodity market or that they have to first establish the necessary credit

lines and marketing facilities or that they really must hire new people to handle the countertrade purchases.

According to figures from the Department of Trade, countertrade contracts signed between the Indonesian government and foreign suppliers from 14 countries total US\$563.57 million, but only \$143.37 million in goods have actually been purchased by the foreign companies.

Although Indonesian officials publicly express their confidence in the success of the new trade policy, the general experience so far shows that it is an awkward tool for trade and requires a great capacity for adjustment on the part of foreign companies.

Some Indonesian observers already have raised the warning that in order to cover themselves from potential losses foreign companies might very well increase the price of their goods.

In the long run, Indonesian trade experts say, only a recovery from the present world recession will help the export of Indonesian commodities. In the meantime, the government should take firm action to improve the unwieldy administrative procedures that have and will continue to curtail Indonesia's export efficiency by creating high handling costs and long delays.

—Mochtar Lubis

Japan needs Indonesia's oil, but...

TOKYO—Japan, with its long history of trading companies, considers modern countertrade a new and sometimes troublesome way of doing business. Recently, for example, one of the major trading houses sold textiles to the Soviet Union and received payment partly in cash and partly in pianos. The 800 pianos, unfortunately, turned out to be of such poor quality that they had to be sold off one at a time at various locations around the world.

The most difficult problem facing Japanese traders, however, is the regulations set by one of its major trading partners, Indonesia, which requires the purchase of Indonesian goods equal in value to Japan's exports to Indonesia. Japan obviously needs Indonesia's oil and gas, but cannot include these commodities in countertrade agreements.

Meanwhile, Indonesia's finances have been hard-pressed by oil price cuts to such an extent that it has had to postpone or reduce various industrial projects in which Japan was participating. Mr. Masatoshi Minami of the Nissho Iwai Corporation, Japan's sixth

largest trading company, commented, "The large cut in the scale of projects was, of course, a shock to us. At the same time it was a relief. If all the industrial projects had gone ahead as scheduled, we would have been committed to buying billions of dollars worth of Indonesian commodities."

"How could we have bought so much?" he asks. "And even if we had, how could we have resold? Does Indonesia even have that much domestic product to trade?"

"Whether countertrade is of merit or not, we realize it is impossible not to deal in it," says Minami. "Business profits of the future depend on it."

The new system is not without lucrative opportunities for Japan's trading houses. In addition to commissions for handling the transactions of others—including US giants like General Motors, S-M and the Bachel Corporation—they have gained new avenues through which they can expand their own businesses. Trade in automobiles, electric appliances and electronics, for example, was previously conducted independently of the trading houses. But now there is a need to rely on them in order to assure the smooth flow of business with countries that insist on countertrade.

—Yoshiko Sakurai

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How to trade a color TV for eight dining room chairs

By Michael Anne Conley
Special to WorldPaper

SAN FRANCISCO—It may seem strange that in the world's most economically advanced country, individuals and businesses are turning to one of the oldest forms of economic trade—barter. Ironically, it is modern computer technology that has brought barter back into its own in the US.

"There hasn't been more bartering before now because it's inefficient," explains Michael Phillips, financial consultant, author and one of the developers of another form of cashless exchange—the Master Charge (now MasterCard) credit card system.

"If you have a color TV and you want to

trade it for eight dining room chairs it's difficult to do because it's hard to find somebody with chairs who also wants a TV," Phillips says. "But with computers you can set up three-way or four-way trades."

Growth in barter organizations serving smaller businesses and individuals has been tremendous, says Bob Meyer, publisher of Barter News, the country's first national magazine devoted to barter. But, he continues, "It's a very fragmented industry and provincial for the most part. We're trying to act as a catalyst, to help barter clubs function more efficiently and set up a dialogue."

One action taken by Meyer and a handful of other similarly motivated people was the creation of the International As-

sociation of Trade Exchanges. Joe Weiss, IATE deputy director, estimates that \$350 million in goods and services was traded in 1982 by barter organizations in the US, twice what it was four years ago when the IATE was founded.

"That's less than 1 percent of the GNP. Not much, but it's growing," says Weiss, whose group now has 135 member organizations.

Although most barter still occurs on the local level, computer technology has created a boom for national networks which serve the approximately 60,000 to 80,000 members of barter groups.

It was its computer capacity that helped Barter Systems International to expand from one office seven years ago to today's 75 franchises serving 37,000 individuals and businesses in the US and Canada. The largest network in the country, BSI is currently negotiating informally for franchises in Belgium, Holland, West Germany, South America, Japan and Australia.

One of BSI's biggest deals involved Xerox Corporation, which in 1981 offered copy machines worth \$2 million to be traded for various business needs.

"Sometimes when dealing with a manufacturer, we won't find enough need for their product locally," says Frank Sahlman, owner of one of BSI's first franchises. "When that happens, we go national," says Sahlman, who serves 600 San Francisco Bay Area clients and in 1982 did \$3 million in business.

"I had a retailer with \$17,000 worth of cowboy hats which were dead merchandise in San Francisco. Ordinarily they would have had to be swallowed at a big loss. But we moved them to Houston and Knoxville, where cowboy hats were still in vogue."

Although he does serve as a middle man in some one-to-one exchanges, Sahlman says 90-95 percent of his business is in multi-way trades.

One use of barter—trades for media advertising time—has been a long-time practice in the US. But few media-buying companies can boast of the record of William B. Tanner of Memphis. Called "The Sultan of Swap" by Fortune Magazine, in 20 years Tanner turned a small company which produced broadcast station jingles into a media placement agency said to earn 80-85 percent of its revenues from barter, and with annual after-tax profits of about \$3.6 million.

Last year he parlayed his operations into a \$39.5 million deal with a communications conglomerate which bought him out and gave him a ten-year employment contract to run the business. But this past July, the US government confiscated the company records and charged the firm with paying kickbacks, diverting funds for Tanner's personal use and providing women for clients. Further inquiries could lead to formal charges of fraud, conspiracy and tax evasion.

This kind of publicity makes barter bad news, but Bob Meyer of Barter News says that it's not the norm. "There's a lot of misconceptions about barter," he says. "It's always had connotations of being underground, of doing things off the books. But any occupation has that problem and just because people are bartering doesn't mean they're avoiding taxes. They're doing it for other reasons."

Just to make sure, the government has made tax evasion through barter more difficult with a 1982 adjustment in the tax laws.

"People dealing through barter clubs will have their transactions recorded and reported by those clubs like what we now get from banks which provide information on interest income," says Rod Young, public information officer for the Internal Revenue Service.

The IRS became concerned, Young says, "because even though we don't gather any kind of statistics, newspaper accounts of four and five years ago were saying that barter is growing and is a possible way of dodging taxes."

An audit of 1980 tax returns of 1000 barterers, Young says, called for additional assessments of over \$850 per person. But the new 1982 regulations, he says, "simplifies our job a lot, because there will be this reporting requirement which we can check against individual tax returns."

It will also make it easier to track down the amount of money that organized barter is contributing to the GNP, but it won't speak about informal, underground barter where figures are largely untraceable except for voluntary compliance.

Michael Anne Conley is a freelance writer based in San Francisco.



YOU pay at the entrance. You go in, sit down and wait for the lights to dim. Maybe you have company, maybe not. In a few minutes a beam of light begins to flicker at the back of the room and the screen brightens. You try to get into a more comfortable position and you hope that those people behind you stop talking. It is about to begin. You're at the movies.

Thousands of times, every day, all around the world, this scene is repeated over and over. Harried parents with their (and generally somebody else's) happy children, noisy groups of young people,

romantic pairs of adolescents hand in hand, intensely intellectual university students and settled middle-aged couples, all stroll to the movie theaters. Each goes looking for something specific. And most find what they want.

Today, films provide what is, probably, the most varied form of entertainment. And though most of the international film market is still under the economic influence of the US, many national movie industries continue to crop up all over the world. Some countries achieve critical acclaim—like Australia, some years ago,

or Hungary, today. Some, like the kung-fu movies, create niches for themselves. In Africa, filmmakers have to deal with an uncooperative and sometimes hostile state; in Canada, the state helps, but the US shadow looms large across the border; and in India filmmakers have opted for the internal market.

Probably these films are not showing at your neighborhood theater. But don't worry. This time is on us. WorldPaper takes you to the movies. You just relax and enjoy. If only those people behind us would stop talking...

Looking deep into the ugly face of history

By Istvan Farkas
Special to WorldPaper

BUDAPEST—There is no doubt about it: Hungarian movies have thrust themselves into the front ranks of international filmmaking.

The ascendancy of the Hungarian cinema has been apparent for some years, but the past couple of years in particular have brought a shower of prizes. The biggest hit, beyond doubt, has been Istvan Szabo's "Mephisto," a film about an actor in the early years of Nazi Germany. In addition to an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film, the movie has collected twelve prizes, including two at Cannes and the British Film Critics' Annual Film Award.

"Mephisto" came in the wake of a series of other prize-winning films, including "Angi Vera," Pal Gabor's politically bitter love story that won 13 prizes including a Chicago Gold Hugo, a British Film Critics' award and two David Di Donatello, Italy's top award; Szabo's "Confidence," a 1981 Oscar nominee; and Peter Bacso's "The Witness," like "Confidence"

a film about the "personality cult era" of the early fifties. Last year's acclaimed "Another Way," a daring challenge to sexual taboos, and Peter Gothar's even more highly reined "Time Stands Still," which many have likened to "American Graffiti," have also enhanced the Hungarian film industry's international reputation.

How can so many "gold nuggets" come out of a nation of only ten million? The answer is a complex one. Part of it may be the readiness of Hungarian filmmakers to face ugly periods of recent history. London Times' critic David Robinson, after seeing the 1983 National Film Festival in Budapest, wrote that "the special strength of the Hungarian cinema is its capacity for genuinely critical evaluation both of history and of social themes."

Hungary's comparatively stable and prosperous economy has brought with it the concomitant relaxed freedom of speech which permits artists a wider range of expression on social and political matters. The film industry in Hungary is controlled by a single state enterprise—Mafilm—and is funded by the government. Consequently, its operation remains unaffected by box office receipts and directors enjoy a freer scope of experimentation.

Mafilm is a business umbrella formed of different organizations, including five studios, each with its own decision-making and planning powers. The studios play the role of producers; their heads or-

der the screenplays, commission directors and accept the finished work.

As for the talent behind the successes of Hungarian moviemaking, that's an old story—80 years old.

Hungarians' links with movie making go back to the beginnings of the art. In fact, Hungarians helped found the American film industry. In its early years Hollywood was swarming with Hungarian producers, directors, screenwriters and actors: Adolf Zukor, William Fox, George Cukor, Michael Curtis, Paul Fejos, Bela Lugosi, Melchior Lengyel, Louis Biro, Vilma Banki—the list goes on and on.

In the prosperous years at the turn of the century, Budapest also was growing into a metropolis whose gossip, cafe world and mushrooming theaters and cabarets were seething with cultural activity. In this environment, cinematography was quickly seized upon and a native film industry sprang up in 1901. In 1911, Hunnia, the first full-fledged film company, was established. It was followed by Corvin, which was owned by Sandor Korde, who was to die Sir Alexander Korda after running the British film industry for many years.

This vigorous development was interrupted by World War I and, though re-established in the 1930s, very few films of note were produced until after World War II. The rebirth of Hungarian film was epitomized by Geza Radvanyi's 1947 film "Somewhere in Europe," about a group of children orphaned by the war who raided

farms to keep alive, a film that some critics have ranked alongside Italian neo-realist works like "Open City" and "Bicycle Thief."

In 1948 the film industry was nationalized. The first of Hungarian cinema's three waves of assault on the heights of international recognition came between 1955 and 1958, with such films as Zoltan Fabrik's "Merry-go-round" and "Professor Hannibal," "A Sunday Romance" by Imre Feher, and Karolyi Mekk's "The House Under the Rocks."

The second period dates from 1963 and, in terms of international acclaim, reached its peak in the early 1970s. It is highlighted by the works of Miklos Jancso ("The Roundup," "The Red and White" and "Confrontation"), Istvan Szabo ("The Age of Daydreaming" and "Father") and Karolyi Mekk ("Love"). It also saw the emergence of Marta Meszaros, whose "Adoption," "The Two of Them" and "Nine Months"—all of them about women.

Today, besides "Angi Vera," "Mephisto" and "Time Stands Still," which are showing in movie theaters in many countries, Pal Erdos's "The Princess" and Pal Sandor's "Daniel Takes a Train" have begun to reap a new crop of international awards. The third wave rolls on.

Istvan Farkas is a senior staff member of the Daily News in Budapest, and a contributor to the Hungarian Film Bulletin.

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Many barriers between films and audiences

By Eva Ndau
Special to WorldPaper

NAIROBI—Because appetites for films have been whetted (and spoiled) by imported cinema, a steady African movie audience exists. In Somalia, for example, there are 49 cinema houses. There are 13 in Mogadishu, where movie going remains a popular social entertainment: over 500 films are shown there yearly, with a population of 600,000 seeing an average of two films a month per person. But of the 150 commercial movies so far produced by black African filmmakers, fewer than 30 are shown anywhere in Africa in a given year. In Africa, cinema as entertainment has been dominated by Anglo-American and Asian distributors.

In spite of huge potential markets, domestic film industries are scarce on the continent. The only country that claims a viable movie industry is Egypt, which earns a significant part of its export income from film. Otherwise, the making of films as a cultural medium is almost nil.

Black African filmmakers face a variety of daunting obstacles. One major problem is that local economies simply cannot support steady film industries, and governments see film primarily as an educational and informational medium. Most countries have the beginnings of facilities for making films but final processing, sound synchronization, second-language sub-titles and release printing are done in Europe. Many African filmmakers have looked to the Organization of African Unity for help with initial financing, marketing, taxes, press campaigns and parliamentary and ministerial initiatives. Little has been done.

Few organizations exist to promote African films. The 14-year-old Ouagadougou Film Festival is held every two years for a fortnight and brings together over 50 filmmakers from primarily Francophone Africa. The Carthage Film Festival is now 18 years old, serving Arab-speaking Africa. Both festivals welcome transcontinental participation. In 1981 the first Pan-African Film Symposium (Mogadishu) was held in Mogadishu, Somalia, with a special emphasis on serving English-speaking Africa. All three festivals provide time for film showing and discussions among the producers and a limited public audience.

The Maputo Conference of 1978 saw Mozambique and other Portuguese-African countries join together for marketing films. No other such alliance exists, though, in West Africa. People in Ghana, for example, might see just one film from Senegal, Nigeria or Mali in one calendar year.

The African filmmaker best known outside of Africa is Ousmane Sembene from Senegal. He sees the advantages of film as a cultural vehicle that makes a transition from words to images and from images to sound. He applauds Mozambique and Angola for making films for the masses rather than for the Europeanized elite: Sembene's "Xala" and "The Letter" have long been film classics.

His work, produced in indigenous languages with French sub-titles, is a sample of the language problems in African cinema. Since most Africans are bi- and tri-lingual there is always the question of what spoken language to use to reach the widest audience.

One filmmaker who has won international awards but is still afraid to show his films in his own country of Mali is Souleyman Cisse. A special tribute was accorded Cisse at Mogadishu in 1981 for creating films that deal with African themes. He faces money trouble and government intervention, however—the latter due to the themes he dealt with in "Baara" and "Den Muso," social problems the government would rather ignore, such as polygamy, extra-marital affairs, working women, labor unions, big business exploitation of the working class, extended family obligations and childlessness. He has been imprisoned and his films confiscated. When asked about certain European qualities in his films, Cisse replies: "I didn't invent the camera. I didn't invent the car either, but I drive one."

Kwan Ansah, Ouagadougou Festival winner in 1981, broke into the African market—with his film, "Love Brewed in the African Pot"—through sheer hard work and individual determination, virtually carrying the print to Nairobi in his suitcase. After two years he is still seeking financial backup for a second film. Like Lancelotti Fedika, a younger Ivory Coast Ouagadougou winner, he has had to sacrifice several years and sell his house and car to complete his work.

Eva Ndau is a feature writer whose work has appeared in *The Weekly Review* and *The Daily Nation* in Nairobi.

They are all alike. That's their strength

By Paul Fonoroff
Special to WorldPaper

HONG KONG—Kung-fu is very much alive and well in the Hong Kong film industry. Of the nearly 100 Cantonese-language features released in the colony in 1982, over half can either be categorized as "kung-fu" or, though belonging to other film genres, as containing a significant number of martial arts sequences.

But the nature of kung-fu movies has changed drastically since the pioneering "Chinese Boxer" burst upon the scene in 1970. Directed by and starring Wang Yu, "Chinese Boxer" took place in the years following the revolution of 1911, and used a thin story line as a pretext for displaying kung-fu techniques and their superiority to Japanese judo and karate. Hong Kong audiences lapped it up, and kung-fu became a hit.

Of course, martial arts films had been a staple of Hong Kong cinema for decades, but until the late 1960s the emphasis was on swordplay in the framework of a costume drama taking place in a specific historical period. Kung-fu shifted this emphasis to unarmed battle, occurring either in a modern setting or in a rather vague, unspecified era 50 to 100 years ago.

In 1971, Bruce Lee starred in "The Big Boss," and the kung-fu industry found that it had an international audience as well. In fact, kung-fu became the Hong Kong film world's biggest export.

After Bruce Lee died in 1973, there were any number of imitation Lees who tried to fill the gap—Bruce Li, Bruce Liang, etc. But the gap remained unfilled and, with box office revenues diminishing, filmmakers were forced to come up with a new kind of kung-fu movie that could hold their audiences. Thus, the kung-fu comedy was born—a sub-genre that has continued to develop and remains popular to this day.

Typical of the earliest comedy hits are "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" and "The Iron Fisted Monk," both from the late 1970s and a mixture of kung-fu, slapstick and farce.

Two stars who have emerged in the last five years, and who now hold the box office position once occupied by Bruce Lee, are 29-year-old Jacky Chan and 32-year-old Sammo Hung. Trained since childhood in acrobatics and martial arts, they were members of the same performing troupe. Today, Chan and Hung direct and star in their own films, as well as make guest appearances in each other's productions.

Chan's "Dragon Lord" and Hung's "Carry On Pickpocket" both made it onto the list of top ten money-makers for 1982, grossing over HK\$10 million each. Hung's comedy, "Winners and Sinners," starring himself and guest-starring Chan, is the biggest box office hit so far for 1983, earning over HK\$20 million.

As these films demonstrate, the shift to comedy films, once just an excuse to display the stars' kung-fu artistry, is taking on a life of its own. Now comedy is the raison d'être and the kung-fu a cliché with which no Hong Kong production dare be without.



Young Hungarians look for answers in Peter Galt's powerful "Time Stands Still."

However, kung-fu aficionados need not despair. Liu Chia-Liang, a descendant of a long line of kung-fu masters, continues to produce films that show a reverence for the traditions of martial arts. His "Legendary Weapons of China" is an exploration of various kung-fu and boxing techniques and also made it into the top ten box office draws for 1982.

After 12 years of continuous popularity—a long life for any film genre—kung-fu is far from hearing its death knell. As long as martial artists like Jacky Chan, Sammo Hung and Liu Chia-Liang remain sensitive to changing public tastes and continue to adapt the kung-fu movie to fit these trends, we can look forward to fast kicks, acrobatic leaps and lethal chops for a long time to come.

Paul Fonoroff is film columnist for the Hong Kong-based TV and Entertainment Times.



In the Australian film, "The Year of Living Dangerously," the drama of a civil war.

World acclaim didn't affect home industry

By Nell Jillett
Special to WorldPaper

MELBOURNE—After seeming about to set the world on fire single-handedly in the mid-1970s, the Australian film industry is now backing off from the international market.

For most actors, directors and other film people, home is now where the art is. International acclaim and offers are still welcome, but are less desperately sought. This change of attitude, not yet complete, is being shaped by economics and the growing willingness of Australian audiences to go to Australian films without fearing they will be inferior to the general run from America. The evidence is that films pitched directly at an international audience, as a few duds have been, are likely to lose money here and abroad more readily than those which seek primarily to entertain Australians.

The industry is divided between aggressively marketed films made on big budgets (which in Australia means from \$3 million to \$9 million) and much less expensive films that are expected to make their way by word of mouth.

Last year's "The Man From Snowy River"—a kangaroo Western that looked like a Marlboro commercial set in Disneyland—did better business in Australia than "ET," largely because of a relentless sales pitch. This was devised by Michael Edgley International, an entrepreneurial organization that specializes in importing circuses, ballet companies and other live shows.



Ivan Szabo's "Mephisto" shows an actor's life being affected by the rise of Nazism in pre-war Germany.

automobiles and buggies.

Only a few filmmakers are seriously trying to look at and interpret the present.

The leader of the mavericks is John Duigan with "Mouth to Mouth" (about unemployed youth) and "Winter of Our Dreams" (middle-class selfishness in a tough economic climate). Other noteworthy contributions have been Phil Noyce's "Heatwave" (about corrupt politics in Sydney) and Michael Pattinson's "Moving Out" (on the cultural adjustment of Melbourne adolescents with Italian parents).

The new nationalism comes very much into the present off camera. Australian actors, for example, have successfully campaigned for limits on the use of overseas actors. The importing of Kirk Douglas, who made a dreary showing in "Snowy River," was strongly resented. Another import, Ron Leibman, faced far less hostility, perhaps because he turned out to be exactly right as an American businessman in "Phar Lap."

The success of Australian films abroad has led to some of their directors being hired by American producers. Among them are Bruce Beresford ("Tender Mercies"), Richard Franklin ("Psycho II") and Fred Schepisi ("Barbarosa"). The director who seems most likely to be in continuing demand abroad is George Miller, admired for his action sequences in "Mad Max" and "The Road Warrior" (originally entitled "Mad Max II"). Since those films, he has directed a segment of the Spielberg-Landis production "Twilight Zone—The Movie."

There also has been work overseas for Australian actors, though little of any consequence. For instance, Judy Davis, having been highly praised for "My Brilliant Career," did not add to her reputation by starring in "Who Dares Wins," a lamentable British thriller.

The Australian actor tapped most often to do well overseas is Mel Gibson. Born in New York State, Gibson settled in Australia with his family in 1968, when he was 12 years old. To date, the handsome, profi-

lia's best and most adventurous directors, argues that the chief hope of the industry is in small-budget films (as low as \$300,000) that combine Australian stories with universal themes. He believes that such films can do well here and recover much of their cost by sale to television, particularly in Europe. He has tried to prove his point by making some low-budget successes, notably a comedy about middle-aged lovers, "Lonely Hearts."

Australian filmmakers are still heavily dependent on the past for their stories. This is part of the new nationalism that developed in the late 1970s, an attempt to use history—or to invent a mythology—as a way of giving Australians a colorful collective identity. Favorite periods for such films are around 1800 (when Australia was becoming constitutionally independent from Britain) and the 1930s.

These nostalgic films sometimes offer little more than carefully recreated costumes and scenes of highly polished old

cient actor lists among his credits "The Road Warrior," "Galipoli," "The Year of Living Dangerously."

London used to be the first stop for Australian actors seeking international fame. One of the few who has tried that route in recent years is Anne Louise Lambert. She gained a leading role in the elegant British cinematic puzzle, Peter Greenway's "The Draughtsmen's Contract," which is doing pecked arthouse business in Australia. Hardly anyone recalled that Lambert's screen debut was as the haunted schoolgirl in Peter Weir's "Picnic at Hanging Rock" (1975), which is still generally regarded as the best and most influential film of the Australian New Wave.

Neil Jillett is film critic of *The Age*, in Melbourne.

The problems of being close to Hollywood

By Patrick MacFadden
Special to WorldPaper

OTTAWA—Since World War II, Canada, the largest importer of Hollywood's movies, has pursued an official policy of trying to develop a vital film industry of its own. And in the area of documentary and educational films at least, the Canadian industry has set a standard of excellence that is rarely surpassed.

Established by the federal government in 1939, the National Film Board was charged with producing films that would "interpret Canada to Canadians and other nations." Under the influence of its first commissioner, John Grierson (who coined the term "documentary"), the NFB has become synonymous with a type of visual journalism best described as "romantic realism"—a style whose most famous practitioner is perhaps the Canadian-born Robert Flaherty, director of the universally acclaimed documentary, "Nanook of the North." Another Grierson protégé, Norman McLaren, pioneered the animation techniques that have made his name a hallmark in the film world.

In commercial terms, however, in Canada, as elsewhere, the documentary remains the poor cousin to the feature film. And the problems of the fledgling Canadian film industry are similar to those faced by many other countries in both the developed and the developing world. Those problems are, by and large, connected with the unequal competition Hollywood presents. For Canada, these problems are compounded by the erosion of cinema audiences caused by the spread of television and Canada's relatively small population.

In response to competition from Hollywood, the Canadian government established the Canadian Film Development Corporation (CFDC) in 1968 to promote the development of a feature film industry in Canada. It would provide financial assistance to private-sector-produced films that "have a significant Canadian creative, artistic and technical component." Over the next decade, \$36 million was made available for the production of feature films. While this increased the number of films made in Canada from 10 in 1968 to 40 in 1978, it did not provide a base for a domestic production industry. In 1979, 67 features were made; by 1981 this figure had dropped to 37.

A second measure introduced in 1976 was a tax break. Private investors have been allowed a 100 percent capital cost write-off of loans and investments that finance eligible Canadian feature films and co-productions. (Canada has signed co-production agreements with West Germany, Italy, Israel, Britain and France.) While this has not added to the number of films being made, it has made bigger budgets possible.

Because of bigger budgets and co-productions, Canadian filmmakers have been able to afford international stars and to attract correspondingly larger audiences. "Equus," with Richard Burton, was filmed in Canada, and "Quest for Fire," a critical and box-office success, was a France-Canada co-production.

A less happy result has been that some such films end up appealing to nobody: as a recent study puts it, "It could well be argued that one result of the expanded investment in Canadian film production resulting from the film tax incentive has been channeled to big-budget English language productions aimed at the US market."

This question of language is crucial—a shared language with the United States has tempted Canadian producers to tailor their products to the mass US market. As the United States has ten times the population of Canada, it is an understandable temptation. But while the result—the commercial success of such chewing-gum cinema as "Porky's," "Meatballs" and "Ilsa, She-Wolf of the SS"—may be gratifying for their investors, the films are not perhaps what the proponents of a national Canadian cinema had in mind.



Canadian Norman McLaren captures the grace of ballet in his magical "Pas de Deux."

An instructive comparison may be made with the Australian cinema. At the Cannes Film Festival in 1978, where the Australian film "The Chant of Jimmy Blacksmith" was shown to wide acclaim, a visiting Canadian was told by an Australian: "We make films for ourselves and if other people like them also, that's good. But first they're for us and about us."

Closer to home, the industry in French-speaking Quebec has produced films that are recognizably Quebec in orientation and style. As in the rest of Canada, Quebec films are state-supported, and these cultural products of the relatively small French-speaking community in Canada have had an enormous critical success.

The relative success of Australia and Quebec raises another question: should state subsidy concern itself primarily with cultural or economic concerns? Current policies in Canada seem to hover uneasily between these two polarities.

The biggest obstacle facing Canadian filmmakers, however, is the overwhelmingly foreign ownership of film distribution companies. Seven of the ten largest distribution companies are foreign controlled and, since they are closely tied to the Hollywood studios, it is often difficult for domestic films to reach wide markets in Canada. It would be unrealistic to expect the emergence of a native film industry without far-reaching structural changes in this system.

Patrick MacFadden is cultural critic with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and teaches journalism and film studies at Carleton University in Ottawa.

Video worries the largest film producer

By Arun Chacko
Associate Editor in South Asia

NEW DELHI—With its 763 feature-length films produced in 1982 alone, the movie industry of India is clearly the world's most prolific.

Here, in a country where television is a phenomenon restricted to the larger cities, films are an unmatched communication and entertainment medium. India's 700 million people own fewer than a million TV sets, but there are more than

chief ministers in the states of the Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, where the mortal shortcomings became quickly evident.

The essential ingredients of a box office hit remain outsize heroes, music, dance, sex and violence and a little bit of stick. Serious Indian films which have international awards have small audiences at home.

Despite enormous mass appeal and patronage, however, the Indian film industry is today in the grip of a severe recession. The blockbusters are the money winners and take an enormous amount of money to produce. But there is no way for producers to raise money to make them.

The film industry is almost completely financed by illegal funds from film financiers and smugglers. Huge amounts of undeclared cash are loaned at high rates of interest to what is seen as a high-risk business. Top stars get paid high rates, of which 10 percent is officially declared. Other expenses are understated.

There have been several attempts to get the film industry institutional financing at reasonable interest rates. Banking in India is government-controlled, and the Finance Ministry has that filmmaking is a highly speculative business and cannot qualify for institutional finance.

"It's not as if there is a formal rule preventing banks from giving loans to producers," a finance official points out. "Only there are higher priorities for banks' resources, like agriculture, small scale industries, transport and other businesses."

The Industries Ministry also refuses to categorize film production as a small scale industry, which would make it eligible for institutional finance, despite strenuous efforts by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry responsible for the industry.

Fortunately, the government's National Film Development Corporation is extending financial support to low budget, high-quality art films. Unable to fend for themselves in the money markets, they receive low-interest loans.

But there is no such opportunity for the more popular feature films catering to mass audiences. True, if these films are a gold mine and quickly turn several times the initial investment, but such hits are fewer and farther between while costs escalate.

Video piracy has added to the woes of the film industry. Popular films are barely released before the market is flooded with pirate tapes. And these tapes are shown not only to the masses but to entire neighborhoods for an exorbitant fee. This means a substantial drop in the number of ticket-paying moviegoers, with the consequent loss in the earnings of the high-profile, big-budget Indian film industry. And the problem will only worsen as more people acquire video equipment.

Arun Chacko, former chief reporter for the Indian Express, is a freelance journalist.

COMING SOON

On TV, all the nausea of a 'real' nuclear war

By Mark Gerson
Associate Editor at Large

NEW YORK—What will happen when 40 to 50 million Americans watch the destruction of their country in a nuclear war? How will a president and his administration respond to having their views of a "winnable" nuclear war challenged by commercial television? Why has a major network taken the political and economic risk of making a multimillion-dollar film about nuclear war? No one knows for sure.

On November 20, the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) will air "The Day After," the made-for-TV movie (cost: \$7 million) that portrays the disintegration of two towns in Kansas during the weeks following a nuclear war. While it obviously is not the first film about nuclear war ever made or aired on American TV, it is much more powerful than what has preceded it.

To begin with, the film concentrates on the consequences rather than on the causes of the war. Its major characters are not generals; they are doctors, housewives, students, children. Its setting is not the Pentagon or the White House; it is rural Kansas, the state from which Dorothy was swept away in "The Wizard of Oz."

When ABC hired him, scriptwriter Ed Hume recalls, they "didn't have a specific story in mind. They just wanted some kind of dramatization of nuclear war that would touch our country. They wanted it to be as nonpolitical as possible and to focus on the human dimension."

Hume describes himself as wary of causes and uninvolved in the antinuclear movement. But precisely because the film is "nonpolitical," its political aspect may be extraordinary. The average citizen will not be able to dismiss the film as anti-war, or anti-American, but will watch it and listen to it and its message will strike deeply.

What is its intended message?

"That nuclear war is horrible," replies Brandon Stoddard, president of ABC Motion Pictures. "That's the only conclusion we put across. What the viewer decides to do on the day—or not do—is up to him."

"Deliberately, by design, we obfuscated the issue of who fired first," says Stu Samuels, an ABC vice-president, "because it is not what the picture is about." At one point in the editing process, the scenes were interspersed in such a way that the Soviets look responsible for the outbreak of hostilities. It was quickly redited to preserve the story's neutrality. Everyone was determined to keep the story's focus on what was happening to the citizens of Kansas.

They have tried so hard to keep politics out of the story that several anti-nuclear activists who have seen the film fear it does not have a "message." But it is the very absence of a heavy-handed, ideological message that makes it effective.

Part of the impact also lies in the production's up-to-date special effects technology. When the Soviet missiles reach their targets, roughly one-quarter of the way through the two-hour film, the viewer does not need to imagine the unprecedented devastation of a nuclear blast. It is on the screen. Both through special effects unobtainable even a few years ago and the use of stock footage of

actual nuclear detonations, Americans will witness their nuclear catastrophe as realistically as cinematography can make it.

Nicholas Meyer, the director, calls the film "a gigantic public service announcement." In a series of quick computations, he estimates that if 60 million watch the beginning of the film, 15 million will stay tuned until the end. Perhaps a third of them, or 5 million, will be moved to do something.

Like Hume, Meyer has not been involved in the antinuclear movement. But for months before he started shooting the film, he immersed himself in the story. He learned what happened to the characters

ings—the number of people expected to watch a program, which is the lifeblood of commercial television in the US. The conventional wisdom in the American media has been that the viewing public does not want to confront difficult subject matters and will not turn on their sets for such programs.

Television, of course, responds to changes in the political climate, and in recent polls, more than three-quarters of Americans respond that they favor a mutual, verifiable nuclear weapons freeze. That leads some to see ABC's effort as nothing more than a cynical grasp for ratings. "Doing 'The Day After' is basically a commercial decision," says Mike Hamillburg, a Hollywood agent who has been involved in several major film deals. "It's happening now because there's a mass movement in the country. So they think the film will sell."

Stu Samuels says, "We just didn't consider ratings. Some people say the ratings will go through the roof. Others feel we'll be lucky if ten people watch it."

Whether or not one believes that rat-



A scene from ABC's "The Day After," to be broadcast in the US on November 20.

in the story: how a doctor (played by Jason Robards) struggles in vain to cope with the dying; how a newlywed couple is separated by the blast and then dies; how a farmer is shot by starving urban refugees scavenging food from his land; how a housewife goes berserk as her husband forces her and her family to remain in the cellar; how the entire country is shrouded in lethal, long-lasting fallout.

"I would come home after a day's work," Meyer recalls, "and I'd be nauseous. What I was learning was making me sick. When I was on location shooting, I felt better. All of us involved in the project were bound together by a common purpose. But those good feelings disappeared in the cutting room. Alone with the movie, I started getting that nauseous feeling again."

If the film's makers were motivated by the public good, the question still remains why they succeeded. The nuclear age is 40 years old. Television is even older. Yet such a project has never before been started, much less completed. To understand why America will be shell-shocked on November 20, we must first understand why it has never happened before. One reason, obviously, is audience rat-

other film project, with a subject of less overriding importance, would have inspired this degree of loyalty.

After considering why it has taken so long for television to tackle the nuclear issue directly, one other reason remains. That is the enormity and terror of the subject itself.

As the reflections of Hume, Stoddard, Meyer and others reveal, they encountered what psychiatrist and author Robert Lifton calls "psychic numbing" while making the film. To live with a constant awareness of the imminence of sudden, global holocaust is more than the human mind can bear. Consequently, human beings numb themselves to nuclear reality. When forced to confront it, we must the viewer of "The Day After," one's mental defenses are destroyed.

Having screened the film myself, I can attest to its extraordinary emotional impact. I watched it in the home of Ed Hume on a television set in the corner of his darkened living room. When it ended, I immediately needed to walk outside. As I saw the ocean, the wind whipping the waves into whitecaps, the sunlight glistening in the rippled waters, I felt relief wash over me. Despite what I had seen on the television screen, the world was still intact. The natural world had not been destroyed. Life continued... at least for the moment.

To hold in one's hands a product with such emotional force, and to expose tens of millions of people to it, is an awesome power. Not surprisingly, ABC is proceeding with the greatest caution. Some critics, including journalists working for major papers such as the Chicago Tribune, have implied that the network is afraid to show it.

The program was initially scheduled to air on May 22 of this year. When it was postponed, critics—particularly those who tend to find corporate conspiracies in the media—assumed that someone was trying to kill the project. Fingers were pointed at top ABC executives in New York, at the White House, even at Stoddard himself. Rumors cropped up that the network was "taking the guts" out of the story or was "running scared"; that the absence of a commercial sponsor would keep it off the air; or that the Reagan administration was applying high-level pressure on the network.

The true story, however, was far simpler. ABC's team working on the film was dealing with the greatest creative challenge they had ever faced. In envisioning a post-nuclear world, they were trying to capture on celluloid a landscape which no painter can sketch, no cameraman can film and no writer can observe. They were trying to portray a dying world that they preyed would never actually exist.

The struggle is already beginning over the political impact of the film on the American public. On the one hand, ABC is quietly courting peace groups because they need grassroots organizers to ensure that viewers tune in. But on the other hand, the network is keeping the peace movement at arm's length in order to reinforce ABC's nonpartisan image.

Whether the film will serve the particular interests of antinuclear organizations is unclear. Most Americans are unlikely to let any group, from the left or right, exploit their anxieties about war. But one outcome can safely be predicted. On November 21, the number of Americans who tell pollsters that they "don't think much" about the nuclear threat will be lower than it was the day before.

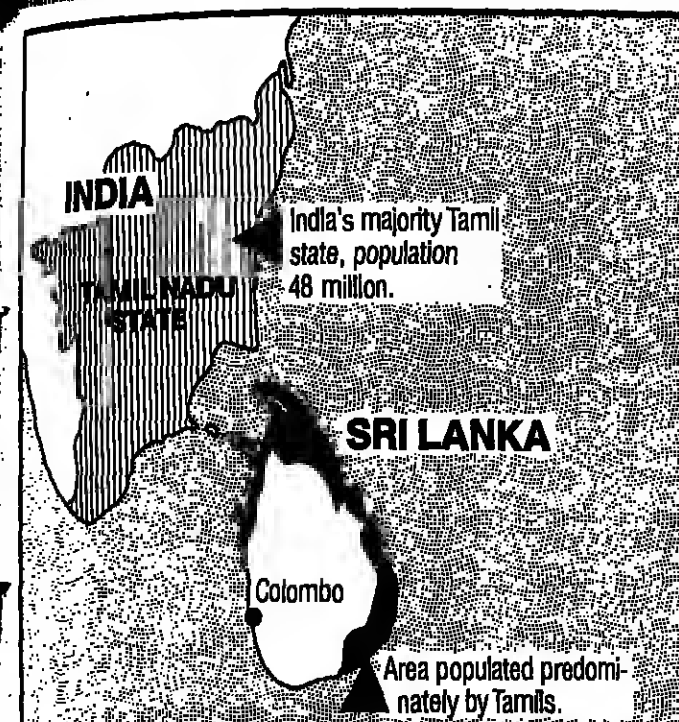
Mark Gerson, whose most recent book is *A Choice of Heroes: The Changing Faces of American Manhood*, is president of Mediators Productions, Inc., a film company specializing in programs on social issues.

Tarzie Vittachi was editor-in-chief of the respected Ceylon Observer when the first major race riots erupted in "the island of Serendipity." His book, *Emergency '58—The Story of the Race Riots*, exposed the role played by the Bandarenaike government. For his advocacy of Buddhist compassion for the Hindu Tamil minority, Vittachi was threatened with harm even to his children. His report on the '58 riots was cited when he received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism "for his courageous contribution to harmonious development in a region of diverse cultures." Since 1958, Vittachi has witnessed and reported on ethnic violence in India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Britain, and the United States.

Vittachi was back in his homeland in July when it happened again. These notes of a native son at the center of another racial storm in Sri Lanka deal with the core causes and nature of racial tensions today.

Facts burn first when rumor runs riots

By Tarzie Vittachi
Associate Editor at Large



People

- 15.6 million total
- 74% Sinhalese; 18% Tamil; 7% Moor; 1% other
- 69% Buddhist; 15% Hindu; 8% Christian; 8% Moslem; 0.1% other
- Literacy, 87%
- Labor force: 4 million. 15% unemployed.
- Employed persons: 45.9% agriculture; 13.3% mining and manufacturing; 12.4% trade and transport; 26.3% services and other
- Language: Official language is Sinhala, spoken by about 74% of population; Tamil spoken by about 18%; English commonly used in government and spoken by about 10% of the population

Land

65,500 sq. km: 44% forest; 25% cultivated; 31% urban, waste or other

Economy

- Agriculture: 24% of GNP. Main crops—rice, rubber, tea, coconuts
- Major industries: processing of rubber, tea and other agricultural commodities; consumer goods manufacture
- Exports: tea, rubber, petroleum products, textiles
- Imports: petroleum, machinery, transport equipment, sugar

Commentary

WE ARE reliving the nightmares of 1958. The same bacchanal of brutality, the same "causes," the same suspicions about conspiracies plotted at home or abroad, the same unreason, the same debasement of the value of a life. The same eyes glaze with incomprehension and disbelief. Everyone deceiving themselves that "it can't happen here in this lovely land of gentle smiling people." It did. Sinhala or Tamil, people butchered, their homes and chattel put to the torch, and rumor again reigning supreme in the absence of information as it did a quarter of a century ago.

Should one delve into the history of 2000 years of conflicts between Sinhalese and Tamils, a people imbued with the same compassion that both Buddhism and Hinduism teaches? The difference is that there was hope 25 years ago that the horror would teach us some lasting lessons on tolerance and mutual respect, so that, like a family after some terrible internecine quarrel, we would live peaceably again.

"Have we come to the parting of ways?" I had asked in *Emergency '58*. That was really a prayer that the answer would be negative, despite the plethora of evidence to the contrary. Was that prayer a futile cry against the drift of historical inevitability? Now the wounds, self-inflicted, are deeper and more purulent, the ugly scars are raw and will take a long time to heal. It looks hopeless now that what has happened has happened. Is it?

Is it beyond the capacity of people practiced in the ways of democracy—whatever its forms—to talk things over and to work things out so that their children will not be victimized by demagoguery, however beguiling? Without that hope there is nothing in the foreseeable future except hate, unreason and violence. Is this being naive? Well then, the answers may lie in naivete.

Many years ago, S.J.V. Chelvanayagam, the quiet, courageous, cultivated leader of the Federal Party of the Tamils made what now seems a prophetic remark: "Banda," he said to Prime Minister Solomon Bandaranaike, "you are now resisting federalism. In 20 years you will find yourself resisting separatism." When racial or religious tensions are relegated to benign (or malevolent) neglect they fester and poison the whole nation.

All social groups—from tribes to nations—protect their individual identity. Cultural and linguistic distinctions are deep-rooted in their very

essence, way below the skin. The older cultures are, the more difficult it is to dissolve their distinctions by assimilation or suppression, as Enoch Powell found in England. He once said, "When I look into the eyes of a West Indian, I have no fear. But when I look into the eyes of an East Indian, I do have fear."

The West Indians in Britain were culturally colonized; they could pass for Britons; they were Christians; English was their only language. Powell believed they were assimilable despite their pigmentation. Not so the immigrants from India and Pakistan, who insisted on practicing their traditional religions, eating their own food, speaking their own mother tongues, wearing their own kind of clothing and following their own mores. And thus began the phenomena of "Paki-bashing" in Britain.

When communalism breaks loose it creates a sort of clarity, as all polarization does. The habitual, inchoate social norm in which people living in a country refer to themselves as "us" suddenly changes into a clear "we" and "they." If war is the logical extension of diplomacy, arson and murder are the expressions of communal ulcers festering under cultivated propriety. People drop their educated postures and reveal their deeper attitudes. An example of this transformation was offered by a very well-educated lady of my acquaintance in Colombo. Her reaction to one atrocity story she had heard was, "What a terrible thing, no? I can't believe human beings can do such things. But, after all, see what they did to us! How long can they expect us to take it, no?"

What all of us Sri Lankans lost in the re-enacted tragedy is to be found in those innocently loaded words, "after all" and "they." The underlying implication is that beyond and beneath the knowledge that we are all human, there is another reality, a blood-borne truth that tribalism is deeper than nationalism, that we who speak the same language, worship at the same shrines, count in different numbers, and marry within our tribe or caste remain a clear, identifiable, and distinct group. I, for one, reject vehemently that "truth." It is a false assumption, not a reasoned or even visceral truth to suppose that human beings cannot accept their biological oneness while recognizing their ecological difference. It is one of those either/or propositions which distort truth. Life is never about either/or but about and/and.

The first casualty in a racial riot is the truth—and by that I mean not the eternal verities but simple, plain information. No news is NOT good news when people are in a state of shock. If there is no information people become susceptible to those who make it up. Do they invent stories from malice aforethought? Some do. But most are motivated by something much simpler: the wish to appear to be in the know, to have privileged access to "facts" which others are not permitted to have.

Regular news broadcasts are the only means of tempering the damage that rumor of murder, arson and rapine breeds. But, even if they don't tell the "whole" truth, they must be credible. Thirsty for news, people then look forward to the 8 o'clock broadcast, the 12 o'clock broadcast and the 6 o'clock broadcast. The long chaotic days and the long curfew-capped evenings are given a semblance of orderliness. But what is good news for the foreign media is bad for the country reported—not because the government is averse to the truth being bruited about as is usually alleged, but because reporting of incidents taken out of context distorts reality out of recognition. And, also, those distortions are broadcast back to the public of the suffering country which takes them for gospel in the absence of authentic information at home, and pours fuel on the flames.

This, of course, doesn't bother the foreign correspondent, because he is concerned not with quenching other people's fires but with pleasing his editor.

The parachute artists—the foreign correspondents—gave a classic demonstration of their craftsmanship in reporting the tragedy in Sri Lanka. In they flew, braced themselves at the bars of the grand hotels and went in search of top deadlines pressing on their minds. How do you begin to report events taking place in a foreign country about which you know little or care even less? It takes too long even to delve into the outbreaks of violence since Sri Lanka became independent. Try to set the events in perspective, in the context of the processes which brought them about? Their news editors would be bored out of their minds. How then find a story? The thing to do is to identify the guys in the white hats and black hats, the good guys and the bad guys. Simplify the intricately complex relationships between two groups of people so that the reader gets the drift without understanding any of it. Bewilderment and bloodiness—the gorier the better—are good for business.

Musings

Talking to myself as the violence raged around me in Sri Lanka, some points for a general theory of racial conflict anywhere seemed worth jotting down.

The first duty of the majority is to respect and protect the minority.

This responsibility is implicit in all democratic institutions.

The rights of the majority are modulated by obligations toward the minorities.

Minorities have corresponding obligations commensurate with their rights to sustain their own cultural identities.

Racial conflagrations are the most difficult type to describe fairly and accurately because "facts" get in the way of the truth.

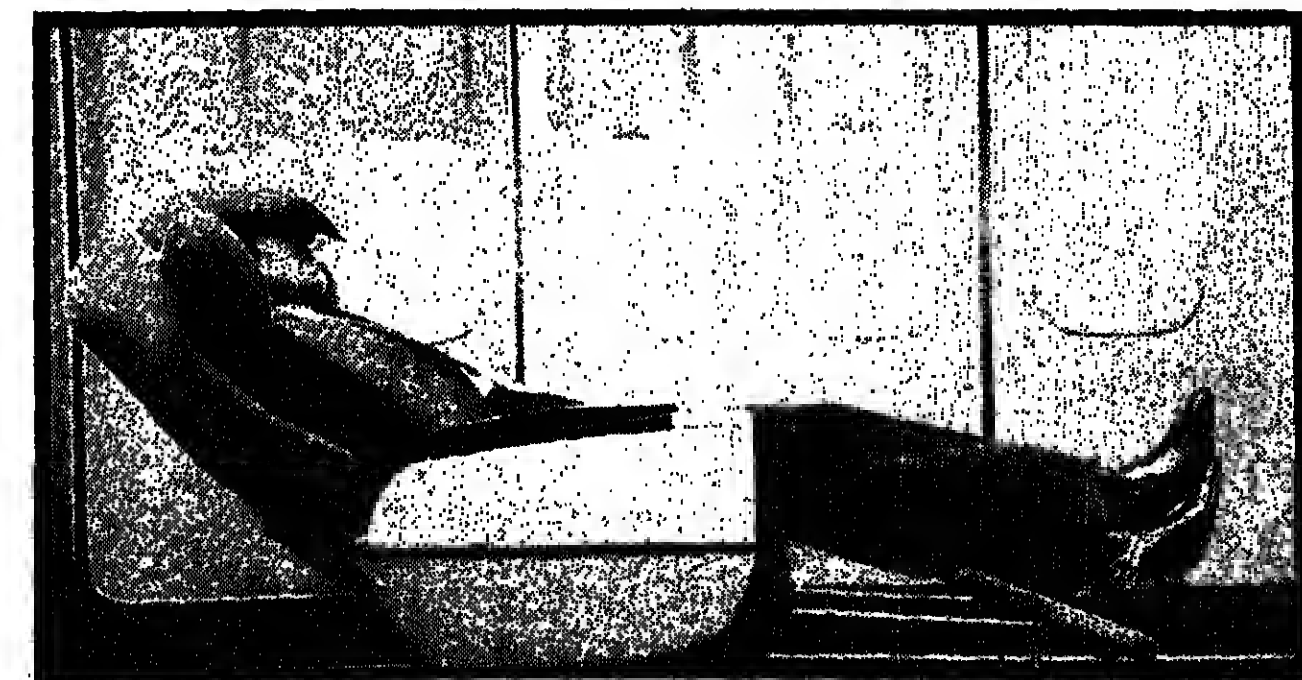
The self-evident truth is that there is only one race, the human race.

The "facts" which trigger and exacerbate communal conflicts are not about race but about cultural distinctiveness.

What causes communal violence? Every outbreak is attributed by each group to this or that action or statement from the other side. But there is only one cause: Fear. Fear on both sides. Fear of being overwhelmed, fear of being hurt, fear of being intellectual.

And, above all, fear of being deprived of one's prospects. You could draw a zero from a bag showing the likelihood of being between communal violence and bloodiness in any part of the world.

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Brazil in Suriname: see how a regional power acts

By Carlos Conus
Special to WorldPaper

BRASILIA—Last April 15 a Brazilian military plane landed in Paramaribo, Suriname's capital, carrying Brazilian Army General Danilo Venturini, current head of the National Security Council (NSC). His mission: to prevent Suriname, one of Brazil's northern neighbors, from coming under the direct influence of Cuba and, in consequence, of the Soviet Union.

Suriname, a former Dutch colony, is a small South American country (less than 400,000 inhabitants) on the Caribbean. In February 1980, its sergeants' uprising led to a military takeover of the government under the leadership of now Lieutenant Colonel Desiré Bouterse, today's strong man. Bouterse rose to power without taking any further political stand other than being strongly nationalistic.

At first, his nationalistic message had great popular appeal. But slowly Bouterse began to lose his support, at home and abroad. Domestically, a "Democratic Front" was established to pressure for the return of political freedom. Abroad, the Netherlands, though continuing its \$90 million-a-year aid program, started showing signs of impatience with Bouterse's having taken so much power

into his own hands. It also feared that political unrest might undermine the Netherlands' own commercial interests in Suriname.

As the Democratic Front gained new members, it grew more audacious. The unavoidable political confrontation occurred last October, when both the government and the opposition staged political rallies simultaneously and within meters of each other. The Bouterse rally was in honor of the prime minister of Grenada, a Caribbean island. The opposition rally was to demand the reestablishment of a constitutional government. Bouterse considered it a provocation.

The government's response came two months later: 15 widely known opposition members were killed. The government said that the opposition leaders were plotting a coup and had been killed when they tried to escape on route to prison. The opposition maintained that all 15 had been shot at close range.

The Netherlands immediately halted its financial assistance. Though small, by Suriname standards the aid was a significant amount. The US also ceased its economic aid of \$2 million, an action that would not have grave financial consequences but that was full of political symbolism.

Early this year, an evaluation made in

Brazil solely by the armed forces general staff—without any consultation with the Brazilian Foreign Relations Ministry—concluded that Suriname was becoming increasingly isolated, politically and economically. And Bouterse still had not committed himself politically—there were only clues as to which way he was leaning.

He was an admirer of Fidel Castro, for example. He went to the Conference of the Nonaligned Nations, in India, aboard a Soviet plane. On the way back, flying on a plane put at his service by the Libyan government, he stopped in Tripoli to meet Colonel Muammar el-Qaddafi. These moves were picked up by US and Brazilian intelligence services. As an American diplomat commented in Brasilia, Bouterse "does not pick his friends well."

The Brazilian government needed to move fast. The Bouterse administration's New Government Program was to be made public May 1, and there were signs that it would lean to the left. At least one member of the government was a strong supporter of Cuba—B. Sital, the minister of Popular Mobilization, Culture and Sports—and he was trying to influence the new program.

It was necessary, then, to dispatch a top-level emissary to Paramaribo immediately, and General Danilo Venturini

possessed the ideal requirements. Besides being, like Bouterse, a military man, he is the head of the NSC, the place where all Brazilian strategic decisions are made: as a neighboring country, Suriname is constantly under the NSC's watchful eye. There was still another reason for picking Venturini for the job: he was publicly admitted by the Brazilian authorities but confessed by a highly placed source: "It was necessary to send a clear message to Cuba. And if there is anything that Fidel Castro understands well, it is a military message."

To compensate for the cutoff of the Dutch and US aid, General Venturini offered Paramaribo an assistance program: including technical cooperation in the agri-industrial area, studies for the construction of hydroelectric power plants and the increase of air and sea transportation. Bouterse's answer didn't take long to come: in July he fired Minister Sital, the greatest friend of Cuba in his government.

Recent evaluations of the region made in Washington and the Hague, and received in Brasilia, are not optimistic. According to them, Bouterse can accept the Brazilian aid, make some small gesture of retribution and all the while keep on his eventual leftward route. Less pessimistic, Brazil is satisfied with the first results and is battling on its own assessment of Bouterse's direction.

Carlos Conde writes about Brazilian foreign policy for the *Jornal de Brasilia*.

Manic in Manila and in Moscow

TWO of the darkest and most daunting headline events of the year were the assassination of Filipino opposition leader Benigno Aquino at Manila Airport and the downing of the Korean Airlines passenger plane by a Soviet fighter while in Soviet airspace.

The two, unrelated as they are, trigger some common responses.

First, all of us watching from different parts of the world know that we're strolling in the dark, that our many questions about the whos, whys and wherefores will likely remain just that.

In another sense, both episodes seem to signal that the human order as we know it has been chipped away at, that the rules of fair play among politicians and among nations have, in these cases, been overlooked if not ignored.

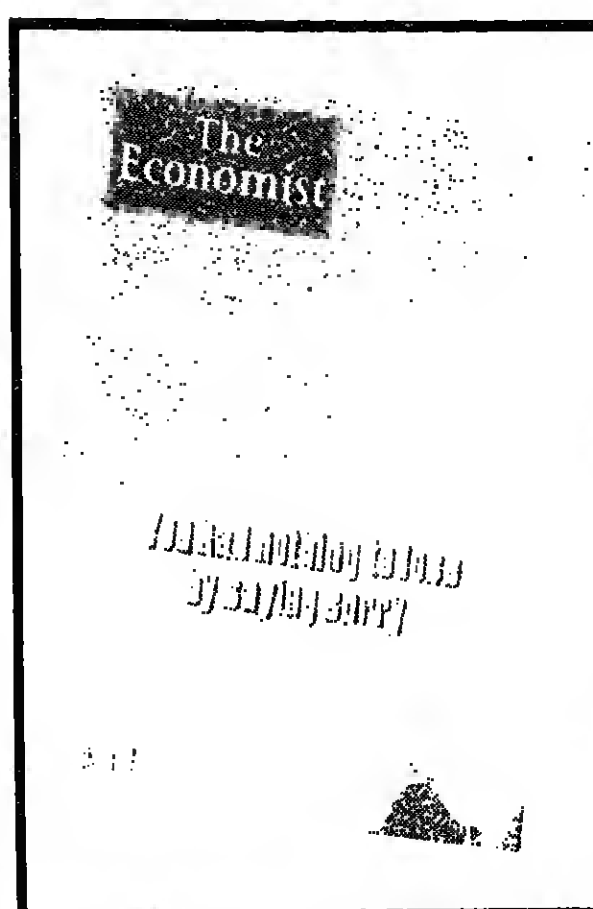
Finally both tragedies were, it seems, induced by the emotion of fear more than anything else—the fear among certain factions in Manila about the return of a prodigal son, the fear among factions in Moscow of intrusions by anyone, innocent or otherwise.

This emotion explains a lot. As a senior statesman of American journalism, James Reston, wrote in a recent column in the *New York Times* entitled "The Politics of Fear": "The chances are that we'll never know who gave the orders in the Soviet Union to shoot down the Korean plane, but the guess here is that the motivation goes back into Russian history: the fear of invasion by Napoleon and Hitler; the fear of being overwhelmed by the computer societies of the West and Japan; the fear of freedom; the fear of satellites in space and US reconnaissance planes snooping with electronic gadgets into Soviet strategic hideouts...."

Presentiments and Pandora's box

One striking factor of Aquino's tidy assassination was how he seemed to anticipate it on the one hand and was unafraid on the other. The charismatic Filipino spoke with this journalist, as he spoke with so many others, in a day before leaving his home of exile in Boston for Manila in August. He seemed completely at ease with himself and with what he had to do. He was fatalistic about what was to come, fully expecting house arrest or jail. But he certainly did not think that he was a marked man.

He did not take the then-reported assassination threat too seriously, assuming it was a story of convenience



One response to the downing of the Korean airliner.

drawn by the government as a way to scare him off. "The President [Marcos] is a little rattled," I remember him saying to me. "He is sick now and out of sight for a few weeks, so he doesn't want me to return at this time. But I trust him in certain ways. My old friend is one cool cat." Aquino's bullet-proof vest and his presentiments of death apparently came as he got closer to home, judging from reports of journalists traveling with him. But days earlier when he was preparing to leave Boston he seemed to have no fear that a shot in the back by an unknown assailant would end his life on the tarmac of Manila airport.

The Washington response to the Korean Airlines affair seemed almost as programmed as the Soviet missile that brought the plane down. The alacrity with which President Reagan, Secretary of State Schultz and White House spokesman Larry Speakes weighed in and the rhetoric they unlimbered gave, in American football imagery, the distinct impression of "piling on" at the whistle.

Conversely, of course, the Soviet response was a Watergate style one of evasion and obfuscation, taking a full week to own up to having shot the plane down and, as of this writing, scarcely expressing regret or remorse at the loss of 269 obviously innocent lives.

In the search for some logical explanation to the Soviet action and reaction, a new book entitled "The Soviet Viewpoint" provides exactly that. The book is a lengthy dialogue between Dutch journalist Willem Oltmans and a prominent Soviet official, Georgi Arbatov, director of the Institute of the United States and Canada in Moscow, who is known as one of Russia's links with the West. Arbatov illuminates dozens of important Soviet mindsets, including on page 170 one regarding borders. It comes in answer to an Oltmans query about four disputed islands on which Japan has an historic claim but which has been held by the Soviets since World War II. The islands are located very near where the ill-fated Korean plane went down.

Asked about the dispute which has long soured Soviet-Japan relations, Arbatov answers: "We see more in those two or four islands than little pieces of land. We believe that a territorial problem, no matter how small the piece in question, demands particularly cautious treatment. In the past, such problems have often enough caused international conflicts and even wars. We have made great efforts to make recognition and inviolability of existing frontiers a norm of modern international relations and a basic principle of détente. Therefore, agreeing to an exemption from this norm in any place, and even on a small

point, may very well open a Pandora's box of troubles...."

What Arbatov and his colleagues must reflect on now is that by not "agreeing to an exemption" in the case of the wandering Korean airliner, they have burst open Pandora's box.

What a difference a decade makes

Ten years ago was the first major tremor of the oil shock. For the US and other industrialized countries, the Arab nations were in a most enviable position, sitting on the largest reserves of oil in the world and successfully dictating the prices.

The World Petroleum Congress that took place in London in September revealed what a difference a decade makes. There is, the oil experts concluded, an abundance of oil today and this could hold true for the next ten years. Middle Eastern nations are pumping 10-15 million barrels a day below capacity, due to reduced worldwide demand.

The US, as the largest user of oil in the world, best illustrates this turnaround. Due to the recession and conservation measures, American total consumption is less today than it was in 1970. The latest industry figures indicate that America's top oil suppliers are not the Arab nations of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain, but Mexico, Canada and Britain. Saudi Arabia now ranks tenth among America's outside oil suppliers.

Reading, writing and...

Another auspicious meeting that was held in September was the Fourth International Moscow Book Fair. Held every other year, this was, unlike previous ones, boycotted by many American publishers, not because of the downing of the Korean airliner, but because of the muzzling of so many prominent Soviet writers—among them, Lev Kopelev, Anatoly Marchenko and Raisa Orlova.

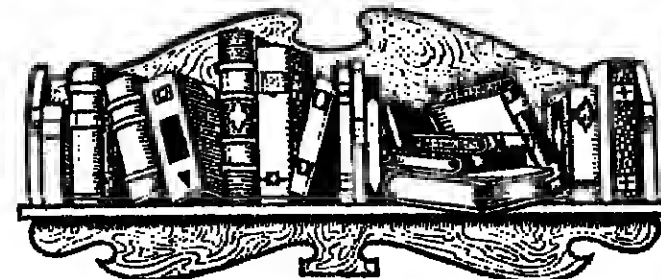
Another discouraging sign in the world of writing and literature has arisen from economic, not political, considerations. A recent study by UNESCO reveals that 150 million persons around the globe learn to read each year, but two-thirds of these become functionally illiterate because there is little if anything available to read.

The study was prepared by Robert Escarpit, a professor of the National University of Gasconne in France, and published in the London-based *New Internationalist*. Escarpit uncovered the paucity of books written in Third World local languages. He cites Kenya, with 46 books published in Swahili in 1976 compared to 121 in English. Similarly, in 1978 Ghana had 29 new books in African languages out of a total of 251 new books published.

"With so much of their book production in foreign languages, there is little for the vast majority of people in poor countries to read once they leave school," Escarpit concludes.

Escarpit's study comes at a time when reports from the American publishing industry indicate a true boom period. Indeed, industry sources project that no less than 50,000 new titles will be published in the US in 1983 compared to 40,000 titles five years ago and 11,000 in 1970.

Not surprisingly, Western book publishers and authors are able to overcome the challenge of television better than those in developing countries can contend with the pitfall of poverty.



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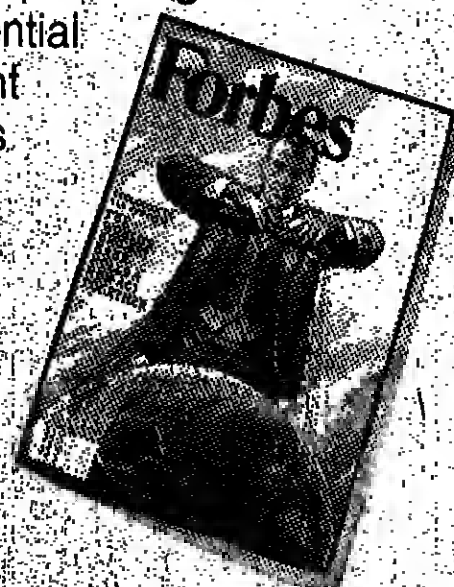
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arts



There is never a break from the barre



Chris Gillard

Scottish Ballet brings a special style

By Vanessa Batrouni
Special to the Star

FOR THEIR major event of the Royal Cultural Centre's inaugural year British Council have brought to Amman the Scottish Ballet. The Centre has incorporated their visit into its programme of introducing ballet and its subsequent forms, to the public. The programme began with the Leningrad State ballet, ballet strictly long classical lines and will end with a forthcoming visit from a French company Theatre de Silence which will show the more abstract limits of contemporary dance.

The Royal Cultural Centre are very pleased to receive the Scottish Ballet who have links with educational workshops and are committed to promoting ballet outside of their home town of Glasgow, where they share the Theatre Royal with a resident Opera and Theatre Company. The company of forty one members are very experienced in touring small town venues around Scotland and England and in travelling abroad, something they do several weeks a year.

The Scottish Ballet feels that it falls between the two. It bases itself on the classical technique but stretches that

technique to explore modern avenues of interpretation without being contemporary in the accepted sense of the word.

The company of forty one members are very experienced in touring small town venues around Scotland and England and in travelling abroad, something they do several weeks a year.

Their intimate and subtle "chamber" ballets, which have been partly created by economics and space available while touring, make them an ideal choice for our theatre here in Amman. The Centre's director Nicholas James hopes that the many young and enthusiastic Jordanian ballet students will have the chance through this visit to see what framework they are working within, to what physical standard they must aspire and what opportunities lie ahead in the world of ballet. To further this end, students have been able to watch the professionals taking class this week as well as seeing them perform in the evenings. (There is a final open class on Thursday 20 October at 3.00 p.m.)

The Scottish Ballet, despite its name's implication of being a national company, is in fact very international in reputation and in cast having gleaned its principal dancers from all over the world. The company consists not only of Scottish and English performers but of Australian, Japanese, Italian and French.

A fulltime ballet school in Strathclyde which became functional this year will supply future dancers but until the students have completed their five year training the company depends on graduated dancers who join as principals or work upwards through the ranks from the corps de ballet.

Choreographic style

A particular identity is not being forged therefore through the national origins of the dancers but through choreographical style. Artistic director Peter Darrell, whose wide ranging career has taken him through most levels of the theatre prior to becoming a choreographer, lays great emphasis on the dramatic essence of a piece as well as on its visual appeal. He says the trend of the merging arts, of normally isolated fields borrowing freely from one another has helped revitalise the specialised arts opening up new horizons and veering them away from stalling repetition. Peter Darrell's exposure to all forms of theatre has helped his style and it is these influences that make the Scottish company unique.

The company's repertoire reflects a well balanced approach to the established and to the innovative. Gordon Alken, the assistant artistic director points out that covalty for its own sake is not necessarily a good thing. The company therefore performs major romantic ballets such as Giselle and Swan Lake as well as original, small-venue ballets on contemporary themes with elements foreign to the ballet mould.

The programme they have brought to Amman is representative of the work they do at home.

"Five Ruckeri Songs", accompanied by piano and voice, is structured in a contemporary vein and studies the spiritual maturation of a woman disenchanted with

life, while "Vospri", although a recent ballet, is purely classical. "Three Dances to Japanese Music" uses devices of Japanese theatre, "Belong" is a more traditional Pas de Deux.

Life of struggle

Behind the effortless movement we see on stage are many years of hard work and of emotional and physical strain. The struggle to become a dancer continues as she or he fights for a career and status while having to sustain and extend physical abilities through training and practice.

Chris Gillard, an Australian who has been with the company for five years, began dancing at the age of seven. He had to grapple with many social prejudices when he asked to switch from the Highland Fling classes he was taking to the less acceptable serious ballet training in his native Queensland. Perseverance and dedication buoyed him through the early hazardous years when many young dancers' enthusiasms trail off and they give up, and by the age of sixteen, Chris was soloing with a provincial company.

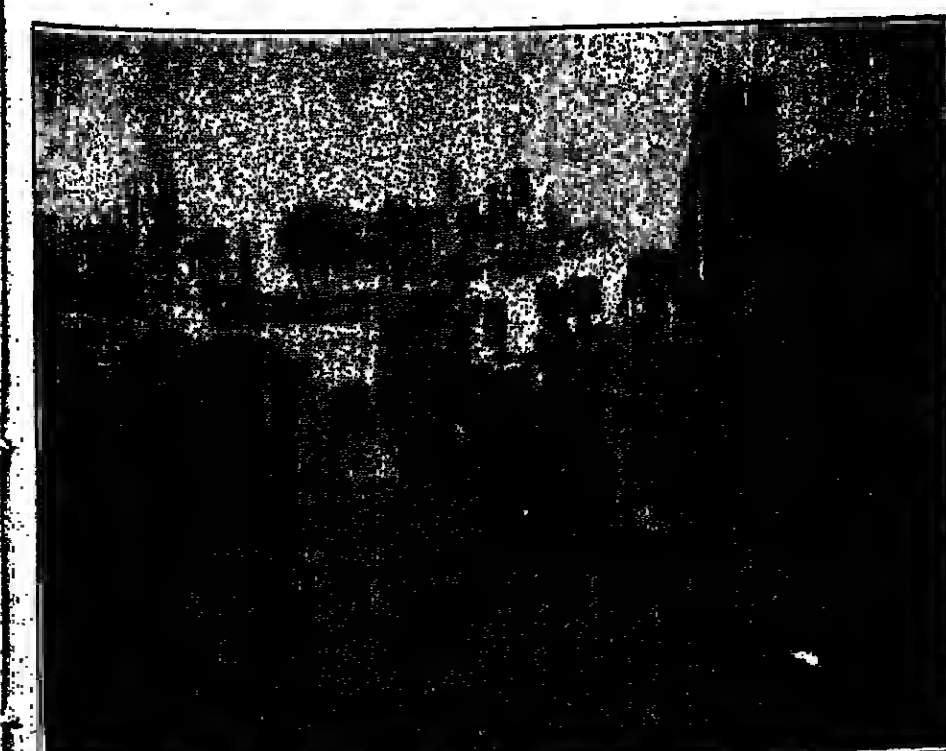
A taste for performance prompted him to leave the national ballet school in Sydney and seek a career elsewhere. Far from home and family he was touring Europe at the age of eighteen. He says that, touring can be exciting and interesting but it is also an exhausting business. Heavy performing and social schedules can over-tax the dancer mentally and physically and he must be young and fit to meet the demands.

A holiday which is relaxation for us can be a disaster for a young dancer who would have to train three to five months afterwards to recover the sharpness of his physical technique, so there is never a break from the barre or theatre. A dancer must practise daily and the Scottish Ballet is no exception, they begin their workouts at ten every morning and continue with short breaks till five in the afternoon.

And the rewards? Nothing is guaranteed. A dancer despite his heavy investment of time and personal sacrifice may never reach the dizzy heights of solo performing — dancers after posing auditions must through the hierarchy of a company from corps de ballet to soloist and must face the disappointment of stalling at lower levels.

Even for those who attain solo careers the future is fraught with insecurity. They work against time and their own bodies which with age become reluctant to undergo the extensive and tortuous practical workouts.

Chris Gillard, at twenty four, knows that his physical peak has been reached and that at the most he has another ten years of dancing. But until that time, dancing is his life and, despite its difficulties, he wouldn't have things any other way.



Muhammad Bolis's exhibition

A new exhibition of paintings by Palestinian artist Muhammad Bolis will open at the Professional Association Complex in Shmeisani on Saturday 22 October.

Bolis studied art at Fine Arts Institute in Amman, but says his artistic

activity first started in Zionist prisons. He says he used to make drawings on the prison walls using nails.

He has exhibited his work in Germany on several occasions and in June this year he held an exhibition at the National Museum of Modern Art in Baghdad.

The value of struggle

By Ahmad Al-Anani
Special to the Star

EXCELLENCE OF human calibre is usually the lot of those deprived of distinctive material privilege. The old Spartans considered the quality of their warriors as more important than fortified walls.

Arab poetical legacy contains many lines making the same assertion. "We will make up for the shortness of our swords by the length of our strides", a poet boasts. Another says "If man's attire is not polluted by shame let him wear whatever clothes he could find."

As a matter of fact it is like that everywhere in the world: the best strugglers are those endowed with the least resources. Even in the world of children, give a boy more than he expects or needs and see how he becomes spoiled. I always remember the witty sayings I heard in North Yemen. Commenting on oil wealth in other countries a young man said, I hope that never allows us oil wells. Who would

sell his quality to struggle and survive for Godsent wealth? "The best image of my country", he went on, "is that by hard work we will bring about progress, in the way a woman gives birth to a new child amid scenes of smiles and tears".

Ever since, the image of the future Jordan has shaken in my mind whenever fresh talks are circulated about the possibilities of oil discoveries in our country. It is not by good luck that we can build up Jordan as a bulwark in the face of the expansionist plans of Zionists; nor would we be happy if Jordan should aspire to the position of a pioneer country in the Islamic world if the elements of that success are not obtained by our own sweat and blood.

As defenders of the faith and survival of our race in the face of the powers of evil represented by Zionism and Colonialism, we are entitled to receive and accept such assistance as our brethren may offer for the common cause. But such help shall never be a justification for the mitigation of our determination to defend our homeland and stand by our usurped rights unified as one man.

What must concern us before any other element of our defence is the calibre of our people: the enthusiasm they display to fight for the preservation of our race, our culture and our rights.

Hence it is that every good citizen in our country should resist luxury and all similar factors of disintegration.

Just as the Spartans, Prussians and other communities in history facing constant danger have to maintain a spirit of readiness to meet death in the face.

Our boys and girls alike should be brought up as true fighters able to cope with all climates and all circumstances.

It is not only the duty of the state but also of the people to make sure that our children are brought up with the spirit of the early Muslim "Mujahideen" with no aspiration other than to them than death for Allah's sake in defence of our land, culture and future. In Jordan let life be for only those who will stand like men and die martyrs for the holiest cause.



Our boys and girls alike must be brought up as true fighters.

Love at the top is not so smooth

By Christine Doyle

WHEN LOVE blooms between top executives in the same company, you might imagine this to be a perfectly harmonious meeting of two minds, not to mention bank balances.

But you would be wrong. According to the Harvard Business Review, dalliance at the top, however genuine, is "dangerous because it challenges — and can break down — the organisational structure."

In this month's issue, senior editor Eliza Collins concludes after analysing four corporate love matches that, far from casting a rosy glow in the boardroom, "managers and lovers" lead to hostility and conflict of interest.

Subordinates and colleagues are anxious that the couples' judgments will be blinded by love, and that the inevitable pillow talk will upset the careers of others in the company.

As suspicion mounts, useful and informal channels of communication start to dry up. Moreover, some colleagues are jealous and feel that in some way their own sexuality is on trial: others regard the affair as sexually seamy, a threat to the social order, especially if one or other of the partners is already married.

In effect such couples form a love-power coalition that threatens colleagues. The couple will also find it hard to confront each other when required.

Collins' solution is harsh but inescapable: "Persuade the couple that either the person least essential to the company goes, or both go."

As the least valuable person, in terms of rank, will probably be the woman, this

answer, she says, is likely to be "a sexist one." If both lovers are equal in rank, the man should leave to save the company from accusations of sexism.

If the male executive insists on going, even though senior to the woman, the female may become an outcast, be blamed for the loss of a valuable male and lose her own status. If both stay, the affair will probably fizzle, but the woman is likely to find herself cut out of power, and forced to leave eventually if she wishes to save her career.

Collins maintains that the most senior managers cannot afford to ignore executive romance and must develop policies and skills to enable them to intervene early and deal with "messy human problems" as compassionately as possible. She advises them to "help the ousted executive to find a new and perhaps better job."

However, if the affair is purely sexual and transitory, the manager may reasonably assume that the executives will "tire of the romp." An early word of warning with the senior member of the pair should be enough to stop it.

A sexual fling, she appears to suggest, is tolerable just as it always has been with those lower in the pecking order in the typing pool. (Even there, however, a woman might find herself without a job if things get out of hand.)

Not surprisingly, Collins' remedies for the messy human problems introduced by the arrival of women at the top do not find favour with everyone. Feminists are angry that she appears to support a double standard that sanctions sexual spruce but cannot stomach The Real Thing.

(Observer News Service)



Zaynab Musharbash tells his story to reporter Salim al-Ma'an

Man regains sight after a lifetime of blindness

By Salim al-Ma'an
Special to the Star

A JORDANIAN citizen, Zaynab Musharbash, has regained his sight after 42 years of blindness.

Mr. Musharbash told his story this week. "I was walking through the main street in Amman in 1941 to buy some cloth for my wife Umm Ziyad. As I was coming out of a store, I bumped into a brass kettle used to prepare Arabian coffee and hurt my right eye which started bleeding."

"The same day I was admitted to the only hospital in Amman where they operated on my injured eye. A few days later I discovered that I could not open my right eyelid and I was told that I lost my vision for good."

"When my sight in my left eye started to falter in 1977 I checked with doctors and was informed by a specialist that I would lose my vision completely within a short while. I was scared at this prospect and thought about going to Australia where my daughter is living with her husband."

"In March this year I left for Sydney with my wife and arrived there after 28 hours flying. In Sydney I went to a hospital where to my surprise, the doctor started to examine my right eye which I thought was hopeless. I tried to explain the state of my right eye to him but he refused to listen and told me 'I am the doctor, not you!'"

"I was then referred to two female doctors who carried out comprehensive tests and referred me to three other doctors. Finally all the doctors met under Dr.

Alfred Wisner and they decided to try and treat my right eye."

"The treatment started on the 2nd of April and continued until early July at which time I felt able to open my eye-lids. Everything looked fine inside my eye except for the old scar from the original injury. I was then given further treatment until the 13th of June during and comprehensive laboratory tests were made. At this point the doctors decided to operate on my eye."

"Two days after the operation, the bandage was removed and two days later they took me to the clinic where Dr. Wisner prescribed special glasses for my right eye and placed a bandage on the left eye. He then asked me to turn my face upwards and asked me what I could see. I said 'I can see light'. He then asked me to look forward and asked me the same question which I answered 'I can see you!'. 'What am I wearing?' he asked. 'A white shirt and a black jacket,' I said."

"The doctor cried with joy 'The operation has succeeded!'"

"I have now been told I can have my left eye operated on after six months after which I'll be able to see well."

"I cannot describe my happiness, says Mr. Musharbash, because no one else could feel what I feel except one who lost his vision."

His wife Umm Ziyad says "I never lost hope and I have great faith in God. My husband is a man of benevolence and he did a lot of good to others. He never despaired."



From 

Mukhtar Zaynab Musharbash and the Musharbash clan in Jordan, with hearts full of love and joy, express their gratitude for the distinguished medical accomplishment, and generosity of the renowned Dr. A. W. Wechsler, of the Ophthalmic hospital, Sydney.

We have joy in extending heartfelt congratulations to him, his colleagues and all nurses of the hospital.

We would like to thank all those who extended their assistance or visited me. A bouquet of Roses to the officials of the Australian government and to all Jordanian expatriates.

May God bless you all — Amen!

20 October 1983



Casey and students at the Haya Arts Centre

'Movement is blessed'

By Pam Dougherty
Star Staff Writer

IN ARABIC there is a saying "Al Harika Barika" — movement is blessed. It captures neatly the life of Casey Singl, dance teacher at the Haya Arts Centre.

Casey cannot remember a time when her life has not been taken up with dance and theatre — nor a time when she didn't have just a little more to do than time to do it.

Her mother sent her off to dance class when she was four; but Casey doesn't actually remember her early lessons. She says they were somehow "always there." By the time she was seven she was at dance school in her home town of Ottumwa, Iowa, to learn not just ballet but tap, jazz, polka and acrobatics. When she was 10 gymnastics was added to the list. At 15 she was managing nine hours of dance class each week and demonstrating for students in less advanced classes.

Until this time dance was definitely the dominant force in her life — especially jazz dance, for which she says she always had a special feeling. Then the drama teacher at her high school offered her a role in a play, "The Man Who Came To Dinner", and her heart was lost to the theatre.

Changing emphasis

Gradually, at high school and later at Smith College, Massachusetts and the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, she began to widen her range in both theatre and dance. She tackled acting, dance, choreography, directing and, when the need arose, costumes, publicity and anything else that came along.

Casey feels that she was moving instinctively from being a performer to being a director and choreographer. She liked the feeling of being involved in all aspects of a show rather than being channelled into the narrower role of performer.

She is, by nature an organiser. "A bit bossy" as she calls it, and likes to have control of the action on stage.

A decision for choreography and against performing came

with her move from Smith college to Minneapolis. At Smith she had been enrolled in the dance programme but at Minneapolis she moved to the theatre department.

Of course just working for a college degree was never enough to keep Casey busy. She regularly choreographed for small theatre companies outside the university and kept up a regular teaching schedule as well.

For two years she worked for a new children's theatre and when she graduated she joined them on a full-time basis, choreographing and directing one production. When she resigned from the theatre Casey found herself without a project in hand, and with time to spare for the first time she could remember.

New scene

The novelty of it quickly wore off and when Nabil Sawalha of the Haya Centre invited her to come to Jordan last year she was happy to try a new country and a new cultural scene.

When she arrived at the Haya Centre her programme was flexible, and she has gradually developed it according to the needs of her students. She began with a small programme of two ballet classes, one exercise class and some modern dance. This has now grown to three ballet classes, modern dance for teenagers and adults, exercise and tap classes.

She feels it is important continually to extend the range and depth of her programme. This year she will give simple examinations for her ballet students and they will present a small public performance. She says this encourages the children to be more disciplined and committed, and gives them the satisfaction of definite "results". She is also planning to ask some of her more advanced students to start demonstrating — something she says was a valuable experience for her as a young student.

What future does she see for dance in Jordan? That, says Casey, depends on what the Jordanians themselves want.

Most of her students at the Haya Centre, adults and children, are Jordanian and ultimately they will decide. Casey says her concern is that if there is a programme it should be done well by properly trained teachers.

She sees no reason why some form of traditional Arab dance could not be incorporated in a general dance programme as well — either just for the personal satisfaction of the students or with a long-term view to forming a dance company combining western and Arab dance. She feels this is the logical outcome of the dual culture she sees developing here.

Musical

And in her time in Jordan, of course Casey's need to be just a little too busy, has continued. In response to many requests she is now teaching dance classes at some of Amman's private schools and, once again, she has a major project under way. In co-operation with the newly-formed Royal Theatre Group, Casey and musicians Vanessa Barouni and Khalid Dajani are planning to stage the American musical "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

The musical is based on the much-loved Peanuts cartoons and Casey says its lively humour should appeal to children and adults alike. As the characters are so familiar and the language is straightforward, the show should be accessible even to those whose first language is not English.

Production is not due until March but auditions are being held at the Royal Cultural Centre on 25 October from 4-6 p.m. and from 7-9 p.m. (Choose your time).

Before formal rehearsals begin, Casey, Vanessa and Khalid will be running a special workshop to train cast members in voice production, singing and movement. The workshop, which is free, will also be open to non cast members.

After that venture, who knows?

All Things Considered

Joyce Abu Jassar

Snow

ALTHOUGH there are still a few warm days left on the calendar we are inevitably headed towards winter. This reminds me of last winter, one of the coldest that people could remember. We had low temperatures and six snow storms at the very end of the season just when we were waiting for spring. And they were properfalls compared to the light dustings of flakes we usually get once or twice among the rains.

I was waiting for another because of the poetic implications. Then I could have referred to the season as the "winter of the seven snows", with three "n" sounds, three "s" and a "w" in the start and finish. The phrase doesn't work with the word "six". The weather failed to oblige me.

We have another chance approaching soon so maybe we can look forward to snowfalls, making snowmen and having snowball fights while we are comfortably bundled in our winter clothes. When we tire of these games and get colder we can go back into our warm houses and relax.

However there are many others who are not anticipating the coming cold season with any pleasure. In fact they are probably dreading it because they haven't the warm clothing and heating sources that take the bitterness out of the winter. For them it is a matter of finding a way to stay warm. It means cold feet and toes that swell and turn purple because there is not enough warmth in the blood circulating through them, and sharp needle-like pains through them when they are warmed.

It means catching the flu or a cold and not being able to shake it off, or if they can, of catching another just as soon. It means being lethargic because the energy derived from food consumed must be used by the body to maintain sufficient heat levels to survive.

If there is a heater in the house, it means staying indoors as much as possible to keep warm, unless the sun is shining and there is no wind.

And saddest of all, after some of the coldest days, the fire brigade or the civil defence teams will be called to a neighbourhood to open a house that is suspiciously quiet. And they will find, as happens at least once or twice every winter, that the family are inside, lying silently in their beds in one room, around the single source of heat — a primus or kerosene burner — with the windows closed. During the night this burning flame has consumed all the oxygen in the room and suffocated everyone there in their sleep.

You and I can't stop the winter from being cold but we can help others in a small way by sorting through the winter clothes that we do have. Anything that we are not going to use ourselves can be given to less fortunate people to help them keep warm — sweaters, shirts, vests and underwear, stockings and shoes that can still be worn, and blankets.

There are several homes for old people and the homeless that can use these items. There are charity organisations and orphanages that care for the less fortunate. They could use these items for their charges or distribute them where they are needed. Ask about them and give them a call. Or another way is to neatly fold the clothing and place it in a clean plastic bag. This can be left beside the dustbin where collectors can take them to be given to low income families.

Would you believe it?

SUMITOMO METAL Industries, a major Japanese crude steel producer, is crawling towards economic recovery by going into the business of edible mud snails, a company spokesman said.

Sadayuki Yamamoto told employees at the Kokura Furnace Factory in south-west Japan came up with the idea to cultivate snails to keep workers busy with the recession-hit plant operating at only half its annual capacity of 2.7m tons.

AWAKENED BY noises, automobile Wally Thomsoe took a look out of the window and saw a driverless, burning car roll away from his house and into an open field.

A post mortem of the burned-out wreck led him to the conclusion that the vehicle caught fire because of a short circuit in its electric system. But the same short circuit apparently activated the starter, and the car rolled off.

Villa For Rent

Consisting of three bedrooms, two large salons, with dining room, two kitchens, two bathrooms and laundry room with garage, wide yards, a garden, a telephone, and central heating.

Location: University of Jordan Estate.

Please call tel. 845423 and 841322

Just Between Us

Yaqoub Salim

Arcane powers

IT'S NO SECRET that the world is run by a group of small, specialised, highly-exclusive conspiracies, whose members have immense powers to arrange events and make sure everything turns out the way they want.

Practically every month, more revelations of this overarching underground are published; more of the facts become known, and their wicked plots are revealed. Among recent well-known examples of the esoteric aims achieved by their nefarious machinations include the victory of an Australian sailboat in a famous yacht race (obviously rigged since any true honest Australian would sail beside-down and sink); the new fashion trend towards miniskirts in Paris, and the unexpected and therefore mysterious success of the opening and operations of the Queen Alia Airport.

All these events have certainly been brought about by unscrupulous manipulators using their arcane powers for their own ends. It is not always clear what those ends are; but the very fact of such strange happenings must mean that someone is behind it all.

The first such conspiracy, apparently, was already in operation several billion years ago, when molecules began linking together as the basis of what later became known as life. The odds against this happening spontaneously are so large that there must have been some outside intervention. The cigar-smoking tycoons who were responsible for that move may now be regretting the course that events have taken — unless their purposes are even more mysterious than one can imagine.

I have been able to deduce the workings of some additional cliques by careful observation of the apparently random events of everyday life. These events are so subtly controlled that one can often find "innocent" or natural explanations for them; but to those who know, they are known.

Among the groups operating behind the scenes are the conspiracy to make sure that everyone oversleeps — obviously responsible for much of the disorder that reigns in offices in the early morning — and the No-Chicken Co-ordinating Committee, which succeeded for a long period last summer in making sure there was no poultry available in Amman. Also active are the Anti-Dustman's League — which kidnaps the city's rubbish collectors and locks them up in an undisclosed location for weeks on end while the refuse piles up — and the Pothole People, who steal out in the dead of night to excavate the city's streets.

All of this may not be news to many. But what is new is that the leaders of all these conspiracies are now in the midst of negotiations to link up and co-operate in one big superconspiracy that will control the course of events the world over. This Committee to Rule Everything will be the single most important factor of everyone's life in the future.

But what will that really mean? What will life be like under CORE, as the new grouping is to be called? I believe that once the coalition is completed we will all come to know a form of life that we have never before experienced — freedom to do as we please. Everyone is a member of one group or another, formed for some specific purpose. When they're all combined, we'll all be members of the super-group. Conspiracy will not exist. What a bore.



LOST IN THOUGHT: His Royal Highness Prince Ra'd and Egyptian team leader Fouad Siyyed are absorbed in the world of knights and pawns at the opening round of this week's Egyptian-Jordanian chess competition (For further details see Sports page)



Introducing the younger generation to the world of the desert: Captain Ramadan with granddaughter Sally.

• An exhibition of desert photographs by Captain Ramadan Ramadan (ret'd) opened to an enthusiastic reception on Saturday evening.

Speaker of the Senate Bahjat Talhouni, Director of Tourism Michael Harmanek and Major of Amman Abdel Rauf Rawashdeh were all there to offer their congratulations.

Noted academic Dr Irfan Kassar Shahid and his wife Mary

or Dr Prescott Williams and his wife Jane.

Artist Fouad Mimi who has just returned from a four-month stay in Turkey and West Germany managed a visit prior to taking off on another trip. Fouad was invited to visit Germany to meet German artists and to familiarize himself with the contemporary art scene there.

He now has a similar invitation from the Swedish government. On 24 October he will leave for a short visit to Sweden to meet artists, visit galleries and generally soak up the art scene.

• Pakistani Ambassador Ishaq Rasheed and Mrs Rasheed gave a dinner party on Thursday and it was definitely a "family affair".

Guests of honour were Pakistani Minister of Industries Mr Ishaq Baksh Sumru and Mr Sumru. They were in Cairo for a conference and took the opportunity to visit son Zubeir who is working with Citibank in Jordan. And the hosts' own son Asad Ahmad, their daughter-in-law and grandson Sajad, who are on a private visit to Amman, were also there.

Rounding out the party were Minister of Industry and Trade Wafiq Asfour, Pakistani Defence Attaché Colonel Wafiq Iqbal Shetty and his wife Talat and Mr and Mrs Ibrahim Noori of Reuters.

• Down at the British Council on Sunday evening British Council representative David Bell and his wife Margot gave a reception to introduce the very international Scottish Ballet to Amman.

Company manager Douglas Pringle said only about 25 per cent of the company's dancers are actually Scots and the rest come from all over the world. The group which is here in Amman includes dancers from Japan, Hong Kong, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and Italy.

Determined to get the most out of their short visit, the group took off to visit downtown Amman on Sunday morning and dancer Catherine Evers said they found it altogether fascinating. It seems they managed to cause quite a stir themselves especially when they staged an improvised pantomime outside a cake shop.

PICTURE POINT



Haifa E'seleh sent this beautiful picture to Star Kids. Haifa is in the third preparatory class and attends Al-Juwaidah Government School. Your Star Kids T-shirt is on the way

ODDITIES



An American great horned owl in an aggressive mood.

Owls fly silently!

THE OWL is described as "a large-headed, small-faced, hook-beaked, large-eyed, soft-plumaged, nocturnal bird of prey." We might add to this that it is a bird whose cry we hear at night time from some dilapidated houses or barn or trees.

The most important thing to remember is the food upon which this bird lives. To get that food it needs its hooked beak and its large eyes in front, which can look down in the dark and see things we should miss. The owl feeds entirely on living creatures such as rats and mice and birds and snails, and to find them it goes out at night.

But imagine this big bird with wings which make a loud flapping noise. All the rats and mice, and even the snails, would get a warning that it was coming, and would hide or escape. The owl is able, however, to move silently because its feathers are soft and light, and so constructed that the air cannot "whistle" through them as in other birds that hunt by day.

Happiness in giving

By Hamdan Al-Haj

ATEN-year old boy, who did not want to go to school one day, was forced by his mother to do so.

Unwillingly, the boy left home. On his way, he saw a blind old man who was having difficulty in getting on his right leg. The old man was standing in the middle of a busy road. Drivers plying the road, became impatient and blew their horns continuously to get the blind old man off the road.

None of them was kind enough to come out of his car to lead the old man away. Neither were the passers by. When the boy saw the scene, he

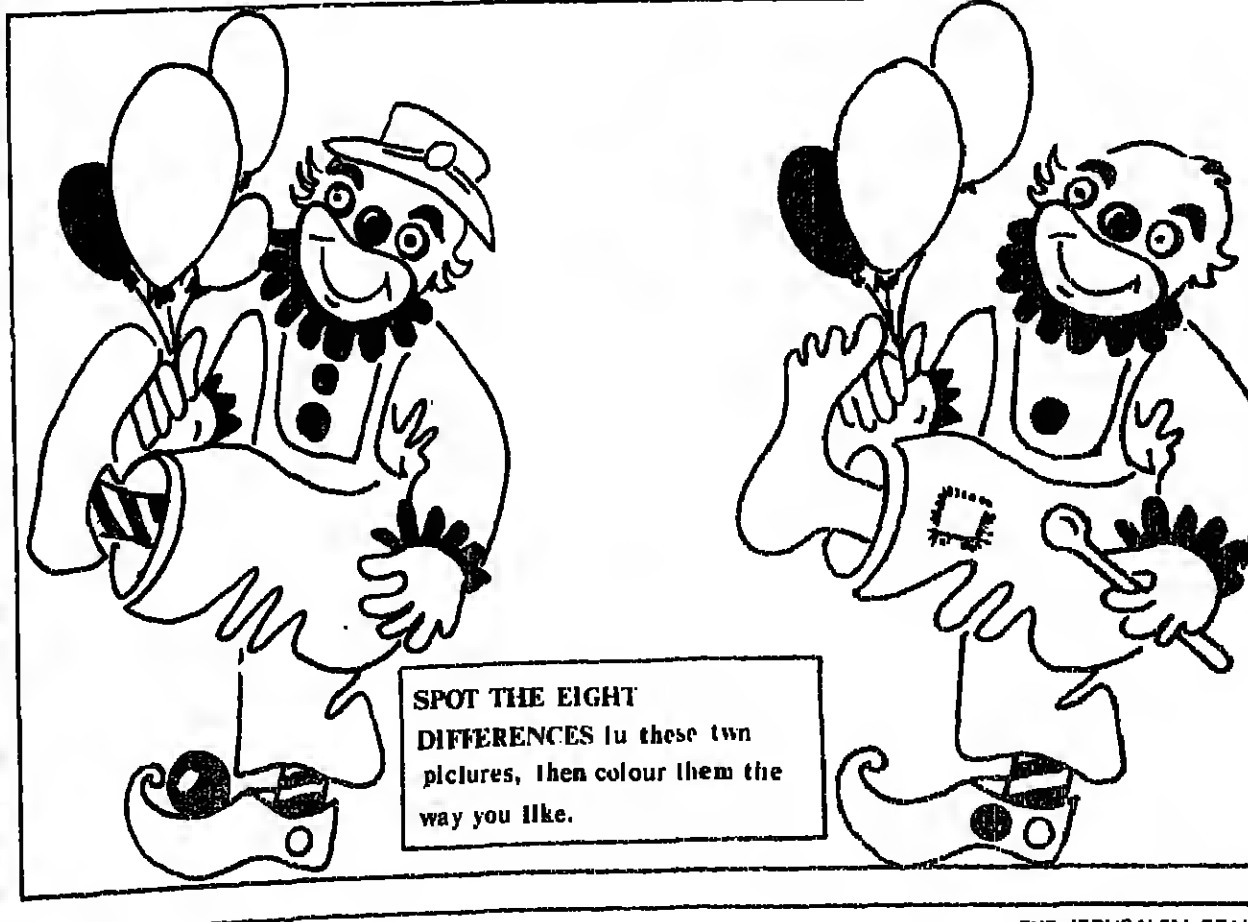
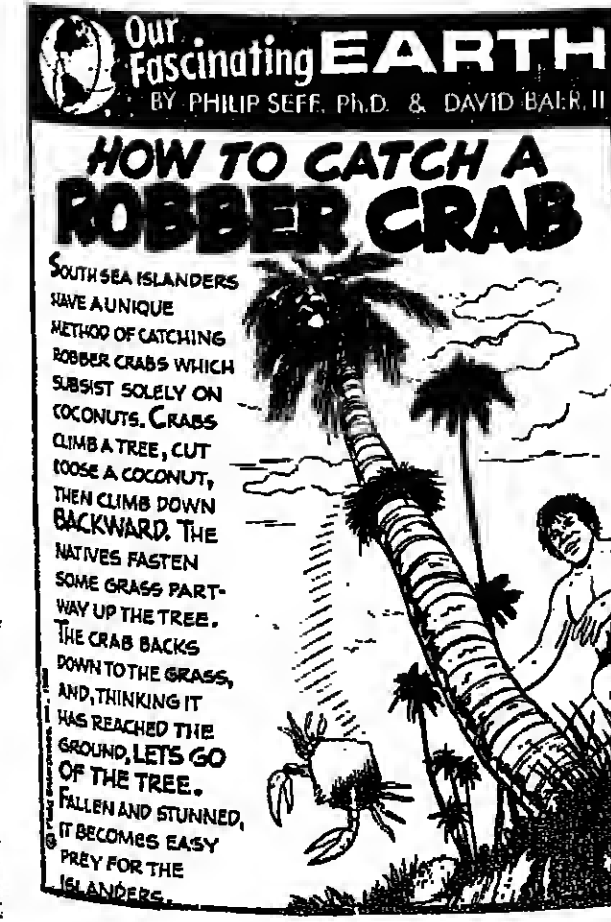
was moved by the old man's plight. He jumped onto the road and held the old man's hand and led him away from danger. The old man thanked the boy and also blessed him for his kindness.

When the boy reached school, he told his mates who congratulated him on his gesture. Back home, his parents also praised him for his kindness.

From that day on, the boy went to school even earlier than ever to help anybody who might be in need on his way to school.



Send your pictures, stories and jokes to: Star Kids, Jerusalem Star, P.O. Box 591, Amman. Children whose material is published will receive a Jerusalem Star T-shirt, so don't forget to put your name, age, school, P.O. Box number and size (small, medium or large).



SPOT THE EIGHT DIFFERENCES in these two pictures, then colour them the way you like.

Ballet
The British Council presents The Scottish Ballet
Thursday 20 October to Sunday 22 October at 8.00 pm at the Royal Cultural Centre

Exhibitions
The French Cultural Centre presents an exhibition of paintings by Oscar Shekwan
Continues until Monday 24 October
The Amman Hotel presents an exhibition of photographs by Captain Areslan Ramadan (ret'd) entitled "The Jordanian Desert"
Continues until Saturday 22 October
The Amman Marriott Hotel presents an exhibition of reproductions of 19th century Arab scenes
Thursday 20 October until Monday 31 October
The Alia Gallery presents an exhibition of paintings by Gae-tane Fabis
Thursday 20 October for one week
The Holiday Inn presents an exhibition of paintings by Adnan Al-Helou Saturday 22 October until Tuesday 1 November
The Goethe Institute presents 32 drawings of Amman and Jordan by German artist Briggit Flade
Monday 24 October until Sunday 30 October at the Regency Palace Hotel
The British Council presents "Concerning Buildings" an exhibition on the conservation of historic buildings in the United Kingdom
Sunday 23 October until Monday 10 November at the British Council "The Rakes Progress" an exhibition of prints by

Hogarth and Hockney continues until Saturday 22 October at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Auditions
Auditions for the musical "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre on 23 October, at 4-6 pm OR 7-9 pm.

Films
The Goethe Institute presents "Wasser Feuer Canto" a 1939 film starring Charlotte Susa, Hilde Sessak, Peter Voss and Andrews Engelman
Wednesday 26 October at 8.00 pm.

The Centre Audiavision Regional (Tel: 43319) presents two films by Rene Clair "Tout L'or du Monde", starring Philippa Nolret, Claude Rich and Francoise Dorleac

Thursday 20 October at 8.30 pm
"Quaterzo Jelliet" starring Annabella, Georges Rigaud and Pola Illery
Tuesday 25 October at 8.30 pm

Lectures
The American Centre of Oriental Research presents a series of lectures by Dr. Prescott Williams on "An Archaeological Portrait of Babylon in the 6th Century B.C.: Humans, Deities and their relationships."
Mondays and Wednesdays at 6.30 pm.

PEANUTS

featuring
"Good ol'
Charlie Brown"
by SCHULZ

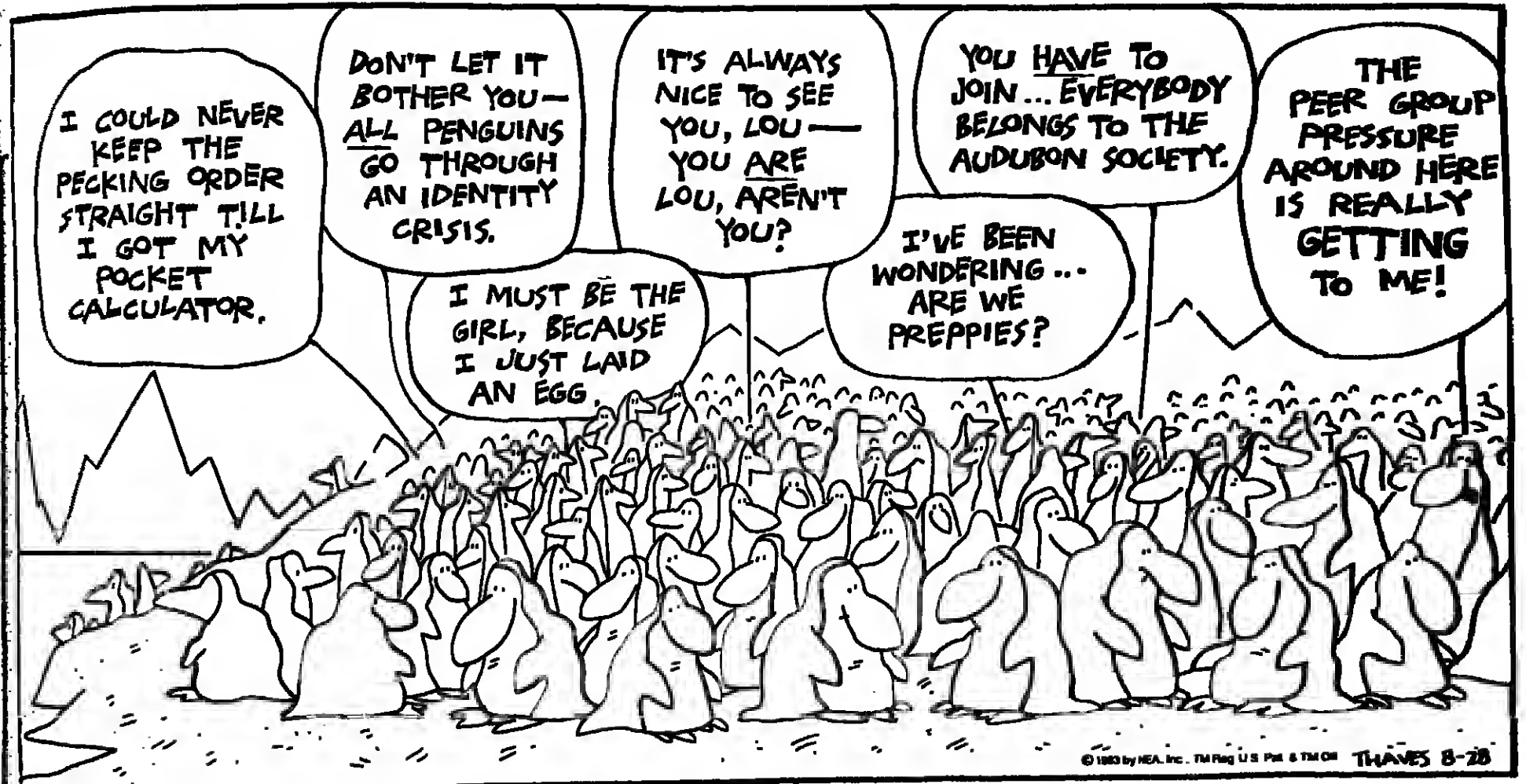


Tarzan

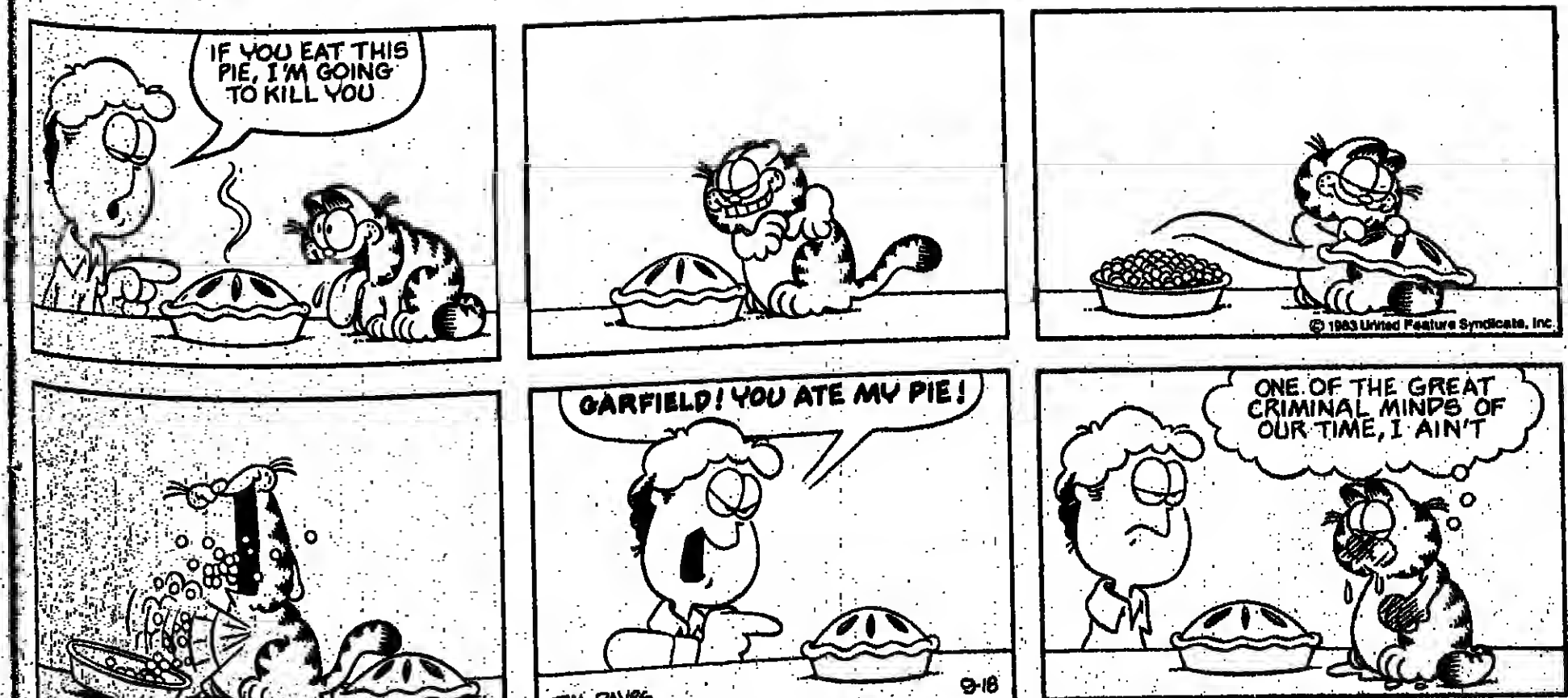
by EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS



FRANK AND ERNEST



GARFIELD



sport

Save Tarif Cycling Club from collapse

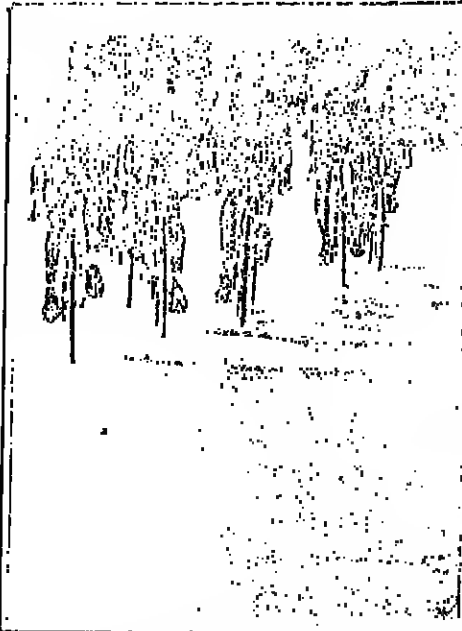
AMMAN (Star) — The Tarif Club, the only organized cycling club in Jordan faces collapse unless it is saved immediately. The club learned this in an interview with the president of the club, Mr. Jihad Saqr, who is also the national cycling coach.

Founded a little over a year ago, the club has won 70 trophies — almost all cycling competitions in the country. But the hopes and ambitions of the founders and that of the enthusiastic members of the club are being dashed because, the club has no sponsors.

Unlike the other sport — table tennis, football, handball, volleyball, swimming etc., the Tarif Club has no recognized sponsors or financiers. This situation has put the club in a serious financial predicament. The club is now hemorrhaging and cannot go on with its programmes.

Mr. Jihad Saqr cited an instance where the club is being ejected from a building it rented for its activities because it cannot pay the rent. The club has no bicycles of its own. It cannot even afford to purchase spare parts to repair the few ones owned by members and which are used for club activities.

More pathetic is the story of a set of jerseys the club intends to buy from Italy for training during winter. Jihad said the jerseys are ready for delivery, but because the club has no funds it can't have the jerseys.



Five members of the Tarif Club (front row) lead in the recent Irbid cycling race.

"Our aim is not to win competitions," said Jihad. The club's ultimate aim is to train the youth in the sport which is popular all over the world. He believes Jordan has the potential to produce some of the best cyclists in the world.

Three teams set for trophies in League

AMMAN (Star) — With three more matches to go for the end of the Amman Little League soccer competition, the chances of the leading teams to win honours in the various divisions are becoming brighter.

The teams are Marriott in the Seniors division, AIK in the Mids and International Traders in the Juniors. Last week, Marriott beat Holiday Inn 2-0 to consolidate its lead. AIK managed a 2-2 draw with Jordan Express to earn a point which enabled it to keep its lead in the Mids division, while International Traders defeated Foxboro 2-0.

Other scores were:

Tots
Red 1 Blue 4

Juniors
American Exp. 2 Telecom 2
Ericsson 4 Intercon 0
Abaha 0 Royal Falcons 0

Mids
Arab Wings 1 Grindlays 2
ALICO 3 Astra 1
Al-Ahlyah 0 Volvo 4

Seniors
Cairo-Amman 3 Chase Manhattan 0

Fixtures for the weekend are

Field One
0900 Abaha vs Intercon. Traders
1025 American Exp. vs Intercon
1150 Cairo vs Marriott
1455 ALICO vs Volvo

Field Two
Ericsson vs Telecom
Foxboro vs Royal Falcons
Al-Ahlyah vs Astra
Arab Wings vs Jordan Express
Chase Manhattan vs Holiday Inn

League table as at 14/10/83

Juniors	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Intercon. Traders	5	4	0	1	14	9	
Ericsson	5	3	0	2	6	0	8
Telecom	5	2	1	2	9	5	6
Abaha	5	1	0	4	3	1	6
American Exp.	5	2	2	1	5	6	5
Royal Falcons	5	1	2	2	1	4	4
Foxboro	5	1	3	1	3	8	3
Intercon. Hotel	5	0	5	0	1	18	0

Mids	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
AIK	5	3	0	2	8	5	8
ALICO	5	3	1	1	13	7	7
Volvo	5	3	1	1	10	7	7
Jordan Exp.	5	2	2	1	11	7	5
Arab Wings	5	1	2	2	9	6	4
Grindlays	5	2	3	0	4	8	4
Astra	5	1	3	1	3	9	3
Al-Ahlyah	5	1	4	0	5	17	2

Seniors	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Marriott	5	5	0	0	12	10	
Holiday Inn	5	3	2	0	10	6	6
Cairo-Amman	5	2	3	0	7	8	4
Chase Manh.	5	0	5	0	0	15	0

Britain to host World Games

LONDON (AP) — The 1985 World Games, an international forum for non-Olympic developing sports, will take place in London, according to the organizers.

Launched in the United States as an experiment two years ago, the games will feature 24 sports — 11 more than in 1981 — and are planned to become a permanent fixture in the international sporting calendar.

Like the winter and summer Olympics, the games will be held every four years, each time at a different venue. No location has yet been chosen for the next event in 1989. The South Korean president of the World Games Mr. Yung Kim told a news conference that one of the major objectives of the new competition is to provide up-and-coming sports with an international window of sufficient size to attract international attention and to introduce sports popular in one part of the world to new audiences in other continents.

Participants, he said, will be selected by their international federations. But in a major departure from the Olympic Games, competitors will march at the opening ceremony by individual sports instead of countries and no national anthems or flags will accompany medal presentations.

Run And Fitness

LET'S LOOK at some advice offered to individuals who undertake jogging as their most frequent exercise routine. A variety of problems can develop when pounding that extra mile, and some of these will be looked at along with some of the ways to ease any discomfort which may result.

Runners sometimes suffer from a very painful ailment because of shoes with inadequately thick heels or shoes that don't provide enough cushion. This painful inflammation is known as Achilles' tendonitis, an inflammation of the thick tendon which connects the heel to the calf muscles. Stretching exercises can help prevent this problem, but don't take it lightly and try to run with pain. Aggravation of the problem can sometimes result in a serious condition.

Running on hard surfaces can cause numerous problems ranging from heel bruises to shin splints. Best to seek out a softer surface — grass or a clover path — before you choose your running route. If hard surfaces are all that you can find, be sure to wear properly cushioned running shoes.

A runner's ailment that becomes bothersome to beginners is called sleetitch. This annoying pain is usually felt just under the rib cage and to one side of the body. When that feeling comes on, try this: continue to run, breath deeply, exhale strongly, change your stride. It may hurt but it does not denote a serious problem.

Hot spots turn into blisters within minutes and take days to heal. A small blister can disrupt an exercise programme, so the best thing to do is prevent the problem. Make sure your shoes fit well and that they are as frictionless as possible. If you notice a spot on your foot or if there is a burn-like sensation on the bottom of your foot, coat the spot with petroleum jelly before you put on your shoes for another run. If a blister does form wash the area carefully and bandage it with gauze.

Should you feel a distict, annoying pain at the knee cap or along the sides of the knee it is possible that you are suffering from "joggers knee." Pain and the swelling are the symptoms. If the swelling persists, you may want to change your running style, your running shoes, your speed, the duration of the runs or the frequency (every other day) of your runs. This is an ailment about which you should consider consulting a sports medicine physician.

Remember, too, that posture while running is as important as when sitting or standing still. Your head should be held high, the back should be straight and your arms should be bent so there is a comfortable, natural swing. Sprinters run only on the balls of their feet. Joggers and long distance runners should have their foot strike heel to toe for maximum running endurance and safety.

Soccer

AMMAN (Star) — Jordan will play Kuwait Friday in the second leg match of the Olympic Games soccer qualifying series. Kuwait beat Jordan 3-0 in the first leg match played in Kuwait last month. Jordan last week drew 0-0 with Qatar in a match on the same ball. Friday's match will be played at the Sports City.

Chess results

AMMAN (Star) — Egypt still maintains its lead in the chess tournament which ends on Thursday. Egypt has won almost all the three rounds of games played so far. At the time of going to press round four was still in progress.

Results as at Monday were:	Day	Rounds	Egypt	Jordan
Sat.	1	5.5	5	
Sun.	2	6.0	0	
Mon.	3	5.5	5	



Doug Padilla

TRACK AND FIELD athletes are preparing for a number of important international meets during the coming months, climaxing with the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, California. Among the Americans expected to excel at the Olympics is middle-distance runner Doug Padilla.

Padilla, a slender 26-year-old, is one of America's bright track and field stars. He holds the American indoor record in the 5,000-metre and the 3,200-metre events.

(USIA)

The disabled and sports

AMMAN (Star) — The US-based Kennedy Foundation for the Rehabilitation of the Handicapped has expressed interest in setting up an agency in Jordan to assist the handicapped in various sports.

This was disclosed by Dr. Frank Haden, president of the sports division of the Foundation, at a news conference in Amman on Tuesday.

Dr. Haden explained that sports and other physical activities are better ways for the promotion of the health of the handicapped. He praised the efforts made by Jordan to help its handicapped. Present at the news conference was His Royal Highness Prince Ra'd bin Zaid chairman of the Jordanian Union for Athletic Activities of the Disabled.

Intimate Starcasts

By Henry Arnold

Week commencing 20 October, 1983

CAPRICORN — December 21st to January 19th

Your home life may need extra attention this week, and tact could be necessary, but by the end of the week, you should be feeling much easier. Try not to let your social popularity take your attention away from your family too much at the moment, or you could cause some friction. You should be feeling better in both health and mind now, and this should help you in the preparation of future arrangements.

AQUARIUS — January 20th to February 18th

You may find that family interests may take up quite a lot of your time during this week, but romance is very well started for the end of the week. You may find that the mornings of this week are very routine, but the afternoons and most evenings should hold great enjoyment for you. The generosity of a close person should more than surprise you, as well as making you feel very happy.

PISCES — February 19th to March 20th

You may feel that you have been deceived by someone you love, but don't make hasty accusations as you could well be wrong. Try to avoid as much as possible, making any important decisions this week, as this is a time when you would do much better to stick to your normal channels. You would be well advised to act on first impressions this week, and don't allow yourself to be rushed, for you are due for some good luck in the near future.

AMES — March 21st to April 20th

This is a very good time for making a personal change which you may have been considering for quite some time. There is every indication of a good outcome. A person of the opposite sex, who is of average height, and has blue eyes, whom you have great admiration for, should pay you quite a lot of attention this week, which should please you very much indeed.

TAURUS — April 21st to May 20th

This is a week when you should find that most people around you are more than usually wanting to be co-operative, and this would be much to your advantage. An extremely good week is indicated for both sports and also travel, for you should feel very fit and in good form for most things. You may find that quite a large part of your week could be taken up very enjoyably.

GEMINI — May 21st to June 20th

You may find that a difference of opinion with a partner could cause some tension during this coming week, but do not worry unduly, as it should soon pass. There could be some excitement in social events this week, which would tend to make life very hectic, but at the same time, most enjoyable. Towards the weekend, a letter will arrive for you, one which you may have been waiting for, for quite some time.

Thursday 20 October

Birthday Greetings to You. Towards the middle of the spring, your financial position will become more and more pleasing, and you will suddenly see an opportunity to put your hands on some substantial gains.

Some of the problems which have been causing you lack of sleep, will straighten themselves out during the next month. You need have no more worries where a certain member of the family is concerned, to whom you gave some money recently. You will be more than repaid in every way.

Someone in an influential position regarding your job has been watching your work very carefully unknown to you. You can expect a great deal of recognition from this quarter, and promotion is bound to follow all your recent hard work.

Friday 21 October

Birthday Greetings to You. Throughout the coming year, you will have to shoulder much responsibility regarding a family problem. Your own personal life, however, will run very smoothly and there is much happiness in store for you.

Financial matters look up considerably this year. An unexpected financial surprise towards the end of January will make you very secure for a long time to come.

New friends are indicated about mid-April. As a result of one of these introductions, you may find a lot of your plans changing. With hard work, you should find that you will satisfy one of your secret ambitions this coming year.

Although you may have been feeling tired lately, you will find your health improves a great deal this year.

Saturday 22 October

Birthday Greetings to You. Your career will show great signs of improvement during the coming twelve months, and all your recent hard work will pay off real dividends which you hardly expected.

You will find that your personal life will run more smoothly from February onwards. Don't let jealousy upset you. You will find to your surprise that there is nothing to be jealous about, and in fact, you will be very popular this coming year, and receive many invitations socially.

During a journey, you will meet someone who will have a long and lasting influence on your life. You should listen to advice from this quarter, as it will benefit you in the most unusual way.

CANCER — June 21st to July 21st

This is a week in which you can accomplish most of what you have in mind to do, and your wit and sense of humour could not be sharper. Business ventures could bring you some extra cash, and in fact, this should be a very good week financially. You could find that a personal matter may need some careful thought, but your common sense should prevail and you should be pleased with the outcome.

LEO — July 22nd to August 21st

You may receive a gift which will hold strong sentimental value for you, from a member of the opposite sex, for whom your popularity appears to rate very highly. This is a week in which you appear to throw in everything. Sport, social rounds and romance, plus a visit from a friend, whom you have not seen for quite some time past.

VIRGO — August 22nd to September 21st

This should be a wonderful week for you, and romantic attachments prosper, so take the plunge and don't hesitate. Whilst bearing in mind the feelings of a close person, it may be necessary to put your foot down rather firmly with another person. A satisfying departure from your usual routine can be expected at any time throughout the coming week, and you would be very wise to take advantage of this.

LIBRA — September 22nd to October 22nd

There could be a slight upset where a romantic interest is concerned but you would do well to remember that at least said, sooner mended. You should excel this week at a social get-together, by the fact that you should be the bright spark of the occasion. By giving way in an argument with a dear friend, you should find yourself the winner and not the loser, and that they are more devoted to you than before.

SCORPIO — October 23rd to November 21st

An acquaintance could attempt to influence you to become involved in a dispute. You would do much better to give a very decisive answer, and not become involved. An opportunity could occur for you to have a very interesting talk with someone you have been admiring from afar for quite some time. Where romantic interests are concerned, feminine intuition could prove to be quite valuable.

SAGITTARIUS — November 22nd to December 20th

There could be reason for you to have a double celebration this coming week, brought about by a romantic attachment. Try to curb your generosity to others around you at the moment, or you could find yourself rather out of pocket. A very satisfying week is indicated when the surprised and unexpected could happen, so you would be well advised to make your plans elastic, and there should be little to fault.

Birthday Information Charts

Sunday, 23 October

Birthday Greetings to You. Whenever you feel disheartened this coming month, you should try and tell yourself that this is going to be one of the most eventful years of your life. Socially and romantically, there are some wonderful surprises ahead of you.

Your career will show every sign of success this year. Meantime, you will be asked to do a great deal of extra work, and perhaps at times, resent it. You would be well advised to work as hard as possible, for promotion is strongly indicated before very long.

There will be a great change in your life about the middle of next month. Someone whom you have not seen for some time will come back into your life, and have a lasting and deep influence on it.

Monday, 24 October

Birthday Greetings to You. Financially, this will be a very good year. Someone whom you have not seen for a very long time will help with money matters, and by your next anniversary, you will be very secure indeed.

Your own personal life will become very much brighter from the end of next month. Someone who is very close to you will do you a particularly good turn, and there is much happiness ahead of you.

You should not let a family problem worry you too much about the middle of January. It will resolve itself and you need not blame yourself for any part of it.

Your health may need to be watched about the middle of April. With your natural energetic way of doing things, you are inclined to overtax yourself.

Tuesday, 25 October

Birthday Greetings to You. Your career will prove very successful during the coming year. Through the intervention of someone in a very responsible position, you will find promotion comes very easily after the end of January, and all your hard work richly rewarded.

The coming year will be a very mixed one for you with many changes in plan, but there is much happiness and success ahead of you.

In money affairs, you will be much richer than you are at present, and provided you don't rush into any wild spree or spending, you will be all right. Don't lend money to a member of the family, however much they may want it.

Wednesday, 26 October

Birthday Greetings to You. A plan which you had expected to be fulfilled during this coming year may not turn out the way you had anticipated, but something else which will bring you much better fortune will occur about the middle of next month.

New friends are indicated this year. One of these will have a great influence on your work, and help you to satisfy one of your secret ambitions.

A great deal of hard work will be demanded of you this coming year. Do not listen to the mischief making of a close associate at work. Keep your own counsel and all will be well.

There is every indication of a new romance for the younger generation and this could very easily lead to a lasting association ending up with marriage.

